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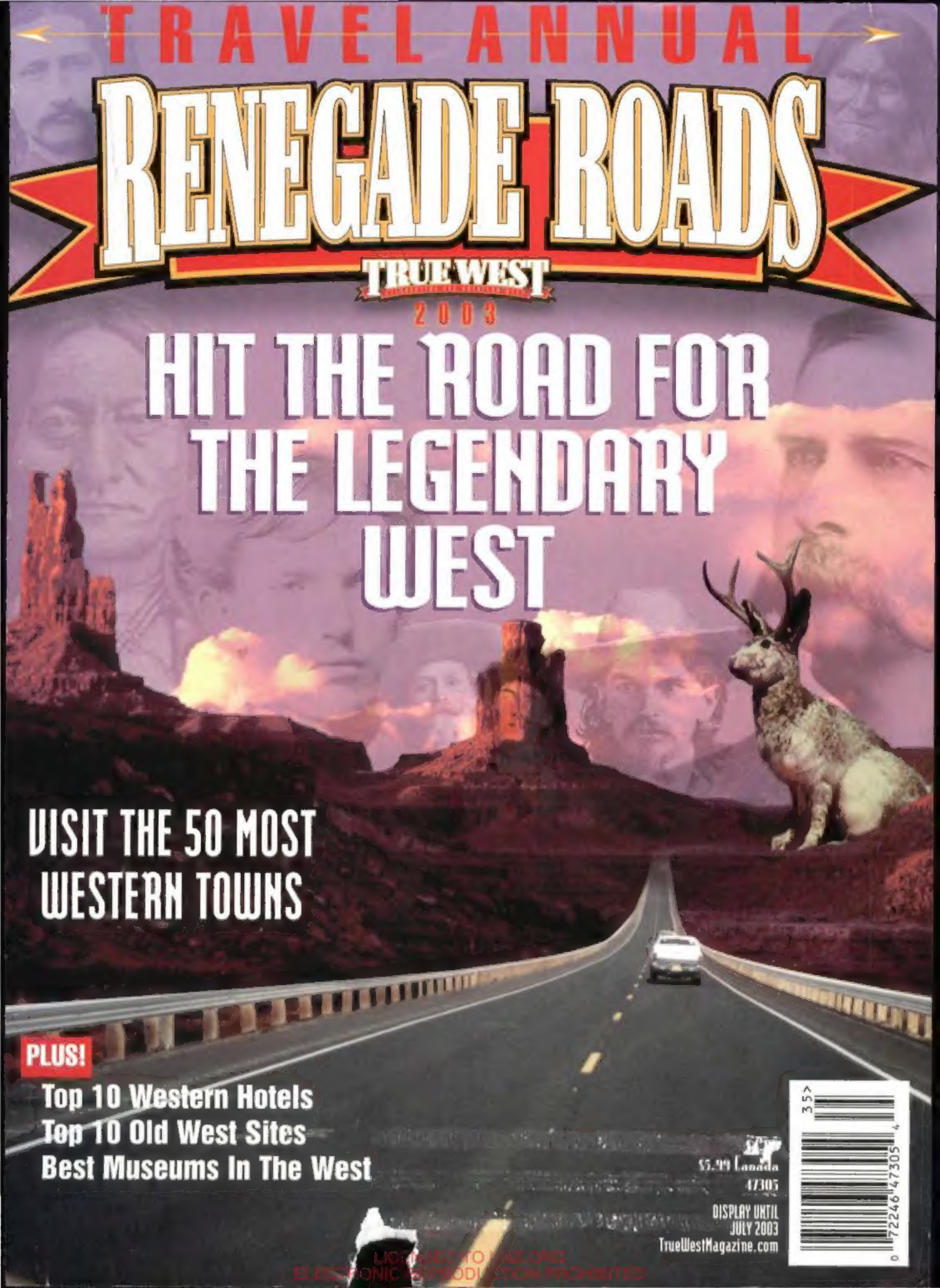

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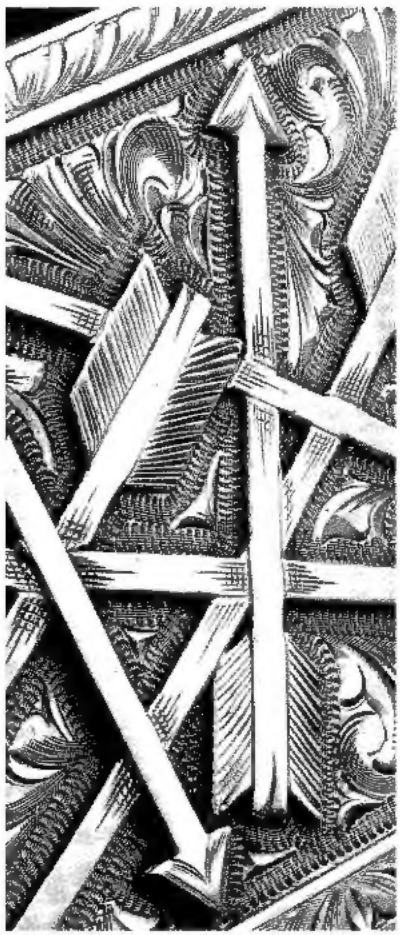

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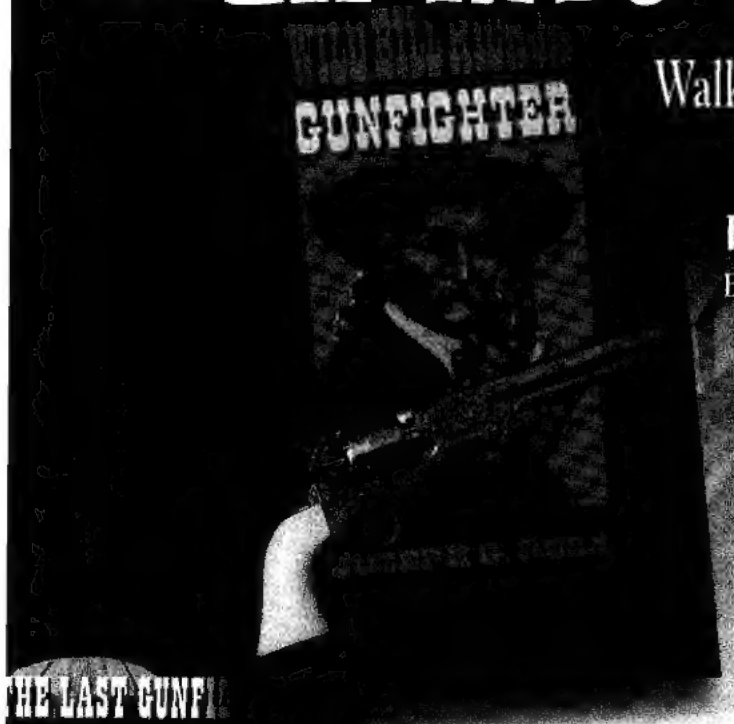

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By Joseph G. Rosa

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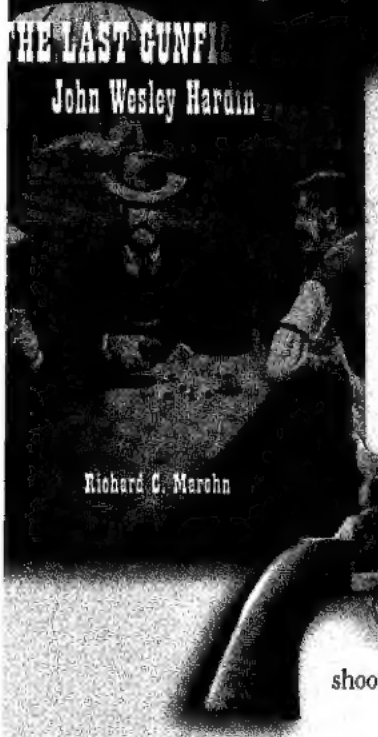

The Last Gunfighter: John Wesley Hardin

By Richard Marohn

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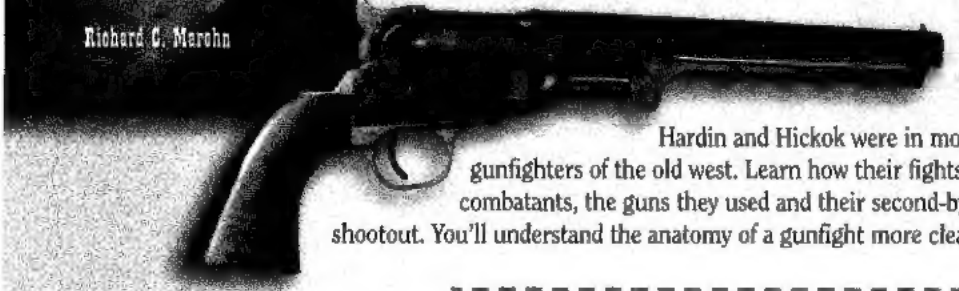

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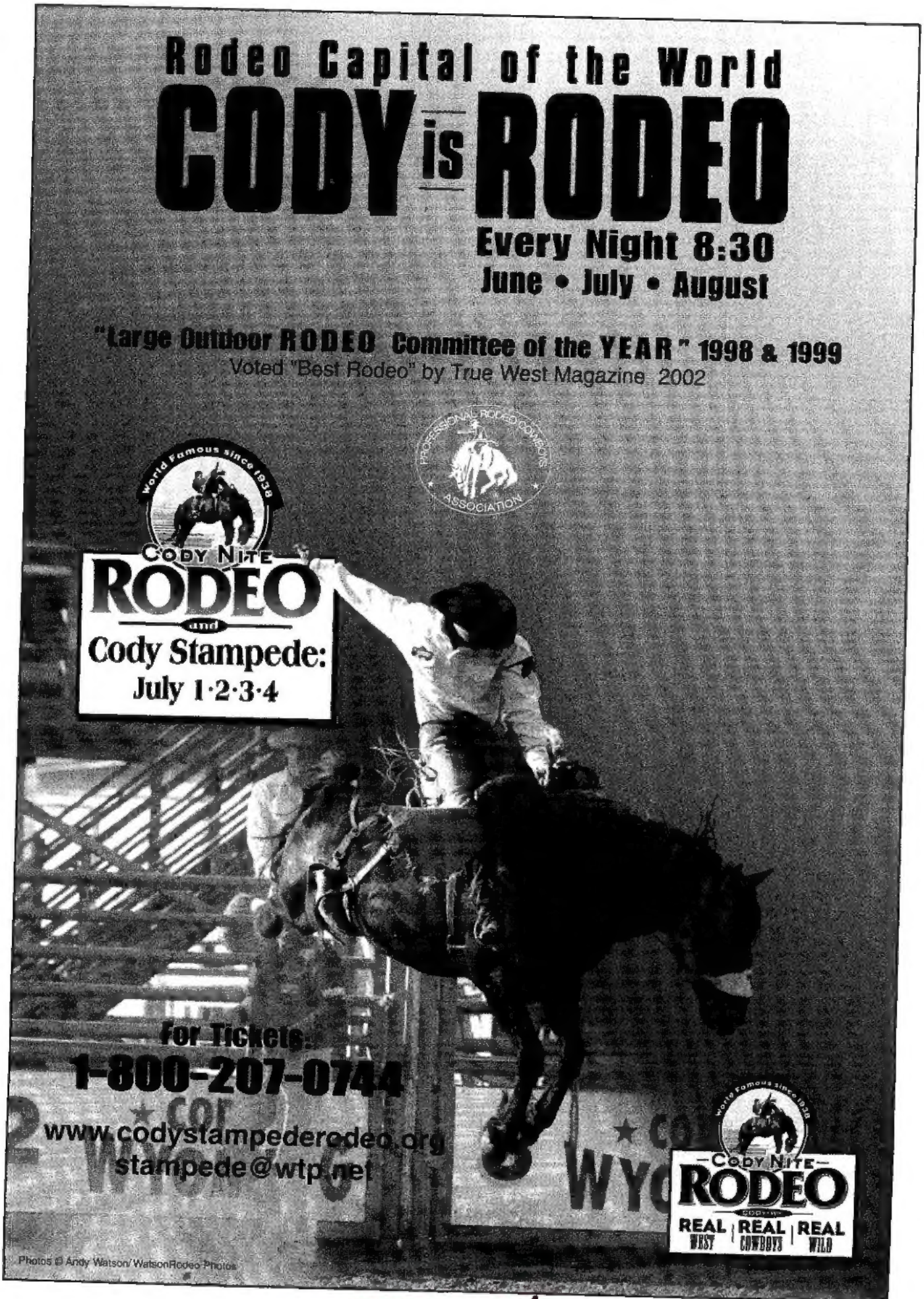

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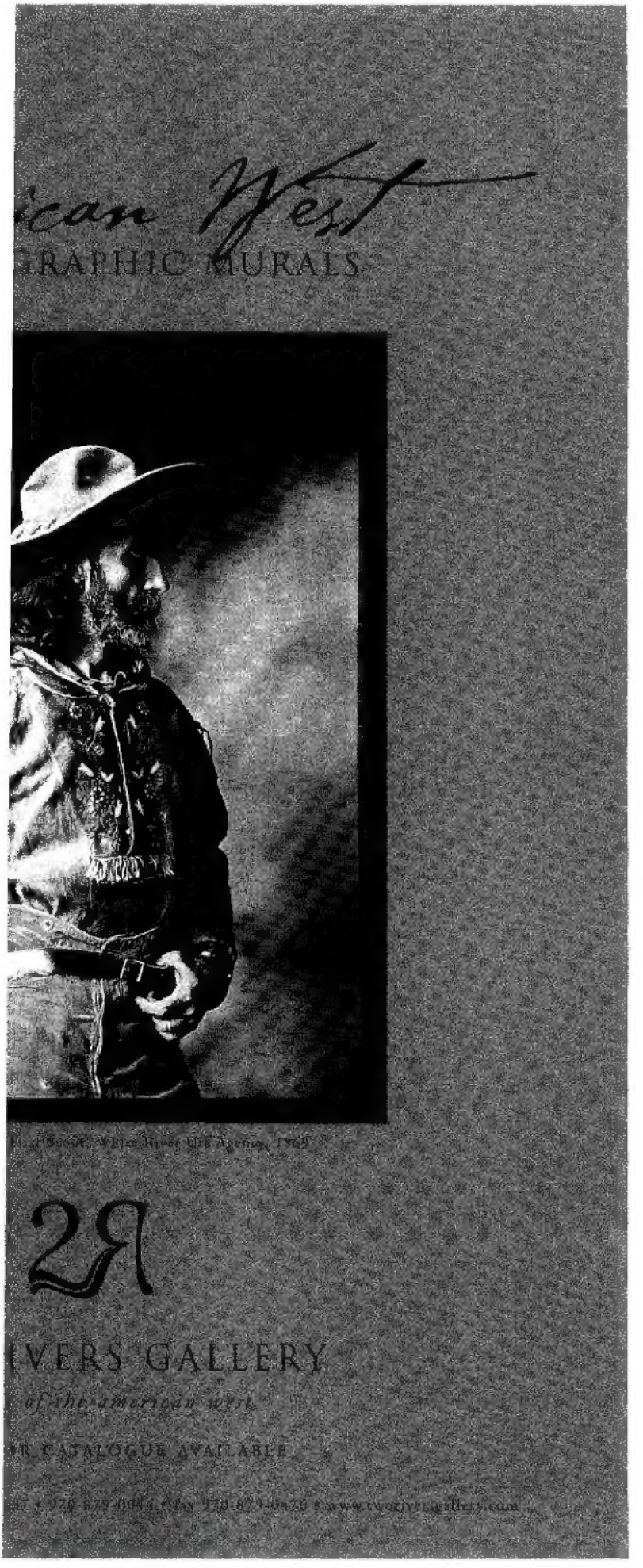

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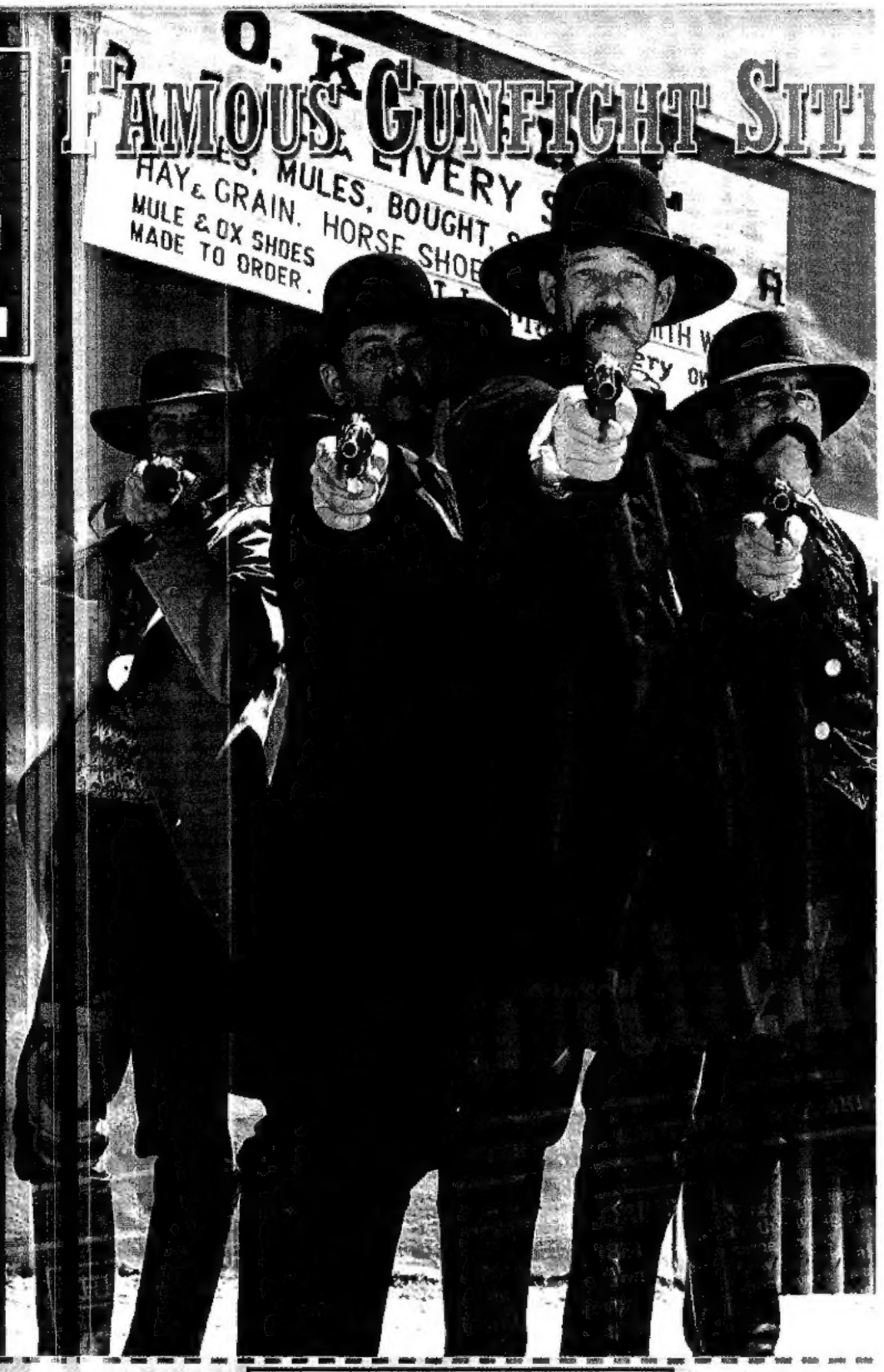

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OUR COVER

Heading down the Renegade Road through Monument Valley, Utah, while Western icons grace the sky above the mythic jackalope.

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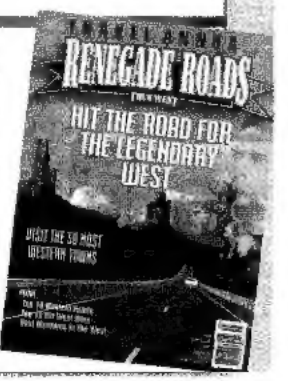

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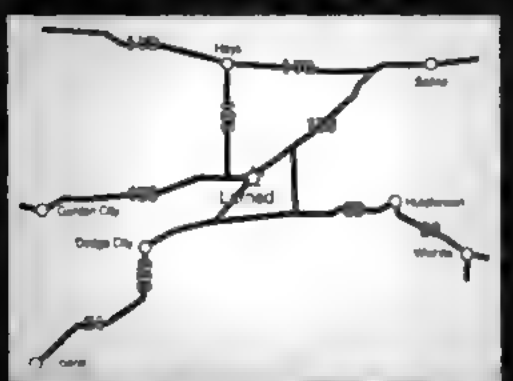

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The Road is Everything

Don't miss it

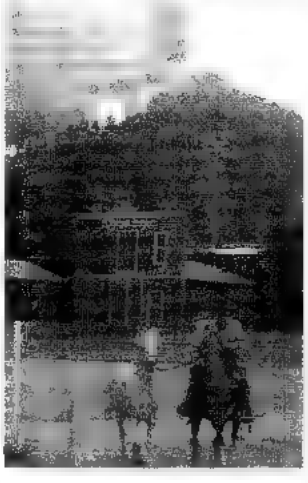
I took several road trips around the West last summer and I have some observations:

■ Fewer cafes are brewing iced tea. This is a national disgrace. Instant tea is awful. It tastes like sifted cat litter. Come on! How hard is it to make real iced tea?

■ How many Indian tribes are there? In some areas, it seems as if there are more casinos than tribal members.

■ The West is so big and varied it defies attempts to capture it on paper.

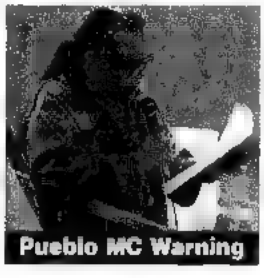
■ The heavy stands of forest around Durango look like fuel for fires, such as those that burned much of the West in 2002.



(Clockwise from top) On the road northeast of Kayenta, Arizona, July 14, 2002; Thadd Turner evacuating his horses from the fire in Deadwood, South Dakota; dry forests and high skies west of Durango, Colorado.

BY BBB, DEADWOOD PHOTO BY TANYA TURNER

■ Gazing at the long horizons while driving across the Navajo reservation in Arizona is soothing to the soul. When you work every day in tight confines, either at an art easel or computer, the scale and size of the mesas out beyond Tuba City, are a thing of wonder. Seeing them is therapeutic.



Pueblo MC Warning

■ My wife Kathy and I, and friends Bob McCubbin and Bob and Trish Brink drove up to the Picurus Pueblo in Northern New Mexico for an art fair. After one of our party (I won't say who, but his name is Bob) complained about hiking a mile and a half from the highway where we had parked, it created quite a stir at the ticket tent. Moments later, the Native American announcer (see photo, lower left) said, "We have some complaints about the parking situation and I want to remind you we are an isolated people. And if there ever is another Pueblo revolt, it will be with people like you." We had been warned.

■ In the age of franchising, my Five Road Rules are becoming increasingly impossible to follow (see page 89).

■ When you can eat at a Burger King in Kayenta, Arizona, for $2.05 and get in and out in five minutes, plus see a free historical display on the World War II code talkers, I understand why more establishments aren't bothering to make real iced tea.

■ Sometimes the best thing that can happen to a traveler is to have a breakdown, detour or delay. It forces us to stop and actually see. And in the West, beauty is found in the most unlikely places. As the venerable author **Louis L'Amour** put it: "The trail is the thing, not the end of the trail. Travel too fast and you miss all you are travelling for."

For a behind-the-scenes look at running this magazine, check out BBB's daily journal at truewestmagazine.com

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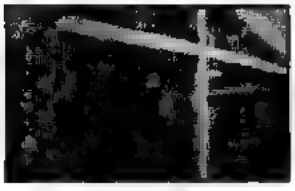

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Shooting Back

True West readers share their best road trips.

This June is the 55th anniversary of the June 3, 1948, dedication of the 563-ft. Crazy Horse Memorial. The memorial is a work-in-progress, slated to look like the model built by sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski (foreground).

TRUE WEST ARCHIVES

In 1997, a friend and I took a two-week trip out West, starting at the Daddy of 'em all, Cheyenne Frontier Days. We stayed at Diamond Guest Ranch just north of Cheyenne. Then we headed to Montana to see Little Bighorn—a great educational and emotional visit. I recommend it to young history buffs. Our last stretch took us to the Black Hills of South Dakota, where we visited ol' Wild Bill and Calamity Jane at Mount Moriah Cemetary. Checked out Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse, before driving through nature's marvel, the Badlands. One solemn visit to Wounded Knee and we were on our way home. I left that trip fascinated about Western history.

RICK MORRISSETTE
APPLE VALLEY, MN

Expensive Photo

Over Christmas 2002, my family and I drove to Tombstone, Arizona. I loved the weather, the scenery and the people. The only bad thing I can say about Tombstone is one old time photo shop outfitted me in blue jeans and a fancy T shirt, took a black and white photo and charged me $20. Do some shopping around and you'll find some shops will dress you up appropriately and take a nice old time photo.

RUSTY GRAHAM
PEORIA, IL

Sacagawea's Grave?

My wife and I travel to the U.S. every year. In 1997, we visited Chief Washakie's grave on the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming. A couple miles away, we came across the Sacagawea Cemetery. According to the gravestone, Sacagawea died April 9, 1884, and was identified by the Reverend J. Roberts, who officiated at her burial.

In 1999, our travels followed the history of Chief Sitting Bull. We found a plaque in Mobridge, South Dakota, stating where Sacagawea had died, spelling her name Sakakawea. Your January 2003 issue's "Two Important Things We Don't Know About Sacagawea," clarified our two sightings. Keep up the good work.

KENNETH EAMES
ENGLAND

Hog Heaven

In the summer of 2002, my father and I took a trip on our Harleys—the "long way" from Atlanta, Georgia, to Sturgis, South Dakota. We visited the Grand Canyon, then headed to Bryce Canyon. It may not be as big as the Grand Canyon, but it sure is more breath-taking. From there, we went through Colorado. I've never experienced a 60-degree change in temperature within hours until we rode through Vail in freezing rain at 10,000+ feet. Within an hour and a half, we were in Denver, sweating. We finally made it to Sturgis. Mt. Rushmore seems larger in pictures than in real life. Then we traveled to Wall, South Dakota, where we visited the Wall Drug Store. Simply amazing.

NATHAN TONEY
AUBURN, GA

Wyoming's Old West

We visited the sites where the Johnson County War ended, old Fort Laramie, Buffalo Bill's Irma Hotel and the Museum of the Mountain Man. For someone who loves Western history and spectacular scenery, I can't remember a better trip.

HOWARD MELCHING
ESTES PARK, CO

In the summer of 2002, my daughters and I took an extended road trip through Wyoming to Canada. We left our hometown of Sutherland, Nebraska, and made it to Casper the first night, stopping whenever there was something interesting. Hell's Half Acre in Wyoming was the first sight to catch our eye and the Grand Tetons took our breath away. Traveling the back roads made it easy to stop in small towns, each of which offered its own special history. Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks were unbelievable. We lunched in Butte, Montana, before walking through its historic district. The highlight on our way home was Custer's Battlefield. We saw extraordinary scenery and gained respect for the people still making their living in the small towns founded by our pioneers.

MURIEL CLARK
SUTHERLAND, NE

Dunking for Love

In March 1996, my wife, Ingrid, and I drove down Old Charleston Road from Tombstone, Arizona. We decided to visit the old ghost town site of Charleston. Finally finding it, we slid down an embankment on our butts near a trestle, then contemplated crossing the San Pedro River (which actually had water in it). I had on a pair of muleskin boots which were impervious to water, but my wife had only a pair of tennis shoes. Since the water was not even knee-deep, I

Name the Best Old West Discoveries. Take the *True West* Quiz at www.truewestmagazine.com

offered to carry her. I hoisted her in my arms and started across. About midway, I lost my grip and she plopped butt-first in the water. She immediately stood up, put her hands on her hips and loudly exclaimed, "If you had just met me, you wouldn't have dropped me!" We visited the "scene of the crime" again in 1998 with several friends, and I re-enacted carrying my wife across the San Pedro. This time, I didn't drop her!

HARRY MCNEER
ADRIAN, MI

Southwestern Excursions

On my favorite road trip in the early '90s, I drove I-10 from San Antonio to L.A., then I-5 from L.A. to Seattle and back. My I-10 travel was great, especially my off-road excursions in New Mexico and Arizona. I went to Tombstone, Fort Huachuca, Fort Bowie and Cochise's Stronghold. I had a heckuva good time!

JOHN BOURDAGE
SAN ANTONIO, TX

…king west from Brown Parade Field toward the Huachuca Mountains.

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

We Welcome Your Comments

"Now let the letters roll in and bare your very soul. That is what has always kept us going and I think it always will."—Joe Small, True West founder.

Send your letters to Editor, PO Box 8008, Cave Creek, AZ 85327 Email. editor@truewestmagazine.com

…ORG
…PROHIBITED

EXPERIENCE THE OLD WEST

April

9-13, **End of Trail:** Raahauge's Ranch, Norco, CA. This 22nd Annual World Championship of Cowboy Action Shooting is dedicated to the trail towns of the Old West. Five days of shooting with 12 main match stages, two team events plus top Western artisans. **Information:** www.sassnet.com, 714-694-1800, FAX: 714-694-1815.

May

17 and Sept. 20, **The Cowboy Trade Day:** Stampede Rodeo Arena, Claremore, OK. From all walks of life, people come to buy, sell and trade—ranch horses, saddle mules, trail-riding horses, Old West guns, antique spurs, truck loads of Western saddles (handmade saddles, used saddles, antique saddles) and more. **Information:** www.cowboytrader.com, 918-341-6985.

June

26-28, **14th Annual Cody Old West Show & Auction:** Victor Riley Events Center, Cody, WY. Cody's Western finds include cowboy antiques, guns, Native American collectibles, art, Western furniture and more. **Information:** codyoldwest.com, 307-587-9014.

September

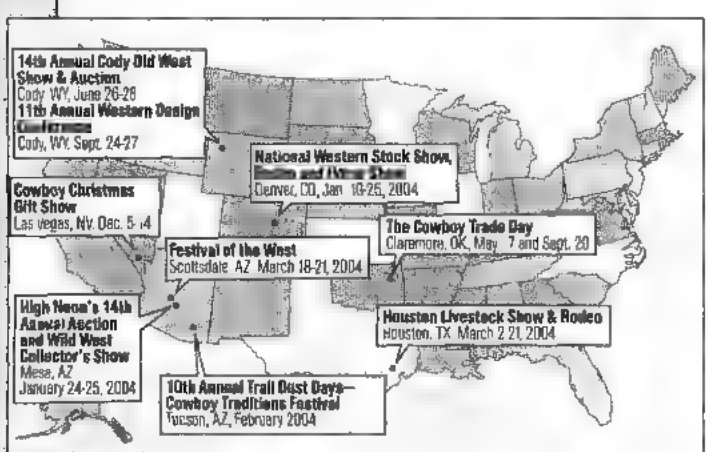
24-27, **11th Annual Western Design Conference:** Cody, WY. See the newest Western designs at this gathering of the country's top craftspeople and designers, showcasing the finest original furniture, fashion, jewelry and home accessories. **Information:** www.westd.org; 888-685-0574.

November

7-9, **Texas Stampede:** American Airlines Center, Dallas, TX. The biggest, fastest, most raucous three days of PRCA rodeo is followed by concerts featuring top-name country musicians. **Information:** texasstampede.org; 214-520-8874.

January 2004

24-25, **High Noon's 14 Annual Auction and Wild West Collector's Show:** Mesa, AZ. Over 250 dealers display their finest Western collectibles, including bits, spurs, Indian beadwork, textiles, saddles, gunleather, photos and more. **Information:** www.highnoon.com; 310-202-9010.


14th Annual Cody Old West Show & Auction
Cody, WY, June 26-28
11th Annual Western Design
Cody, WY, Sept. 24-27
National Western Stock Show,
Denver, CO, Jan. 10-25, 2004
Cowboy Christmas Gift Show
Las Vegas, NV, Dec. 5-14
The Cowboy Trade Day
Claremore, OK, May 17 and Sept. 20
Festival of the West
Scottsdale, AZ, March 18-21, 2004
High Noon's 14th Annual Auction and Wild West Collector's Show
Mesa, AZ
January 24-25, 2004
Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo
Houston, TX, March 2-21, 2004
10th Annual Trail Dust Days—Cowboy Traditions Festival
Tucson, AZ, February 2004

Submissions to Western Roundup are welcome. Please send all information and photos at least three months in advance to Western Roundup, P.O. Box 6008, Cave Creek, AZ 85327, info@truewestmagazine.com or fax it to 480-575-1903.

Cowboy Christmas Gift Show
December 5-14

True West's Ted Gácsi (left) with Phil McAdams, president of Wrangler Western Wear, at the 2002 NFR, discussing Wrangler's redesigned cowboy-cut jean.

~ Courtesy Wrangler ~

This year marks the 45th anniversary of the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo, which began in Texas with a purse of $50,000 and now brings a purse of nearly $5 million to Las Vegas, its home since 1985. Every December, the "full NFR experience" includes the Cowboy Christmas Gift Show at the Las Vegas Convention Center. It features more than 400 exhibitors offering everything from Western art to custom clothes, hats, jewelry, boots, saddles and tack. This year marks the 18th annual show, the only "official" gift show of the NFR.

Information: www.nfrexperience.com; 702-260-8605.

10-25, **National Western Stock Show, Rodeo and Horse Show:** National Western Complex, Denver, CO. This Superbowl of cattle shows was named the top market in the world, with 19 different cattle breeds. See American quarter horse, American paint horse, draft horse and mule shows, as well as USA Equestrian-approved shows. As the PRCA Indoor Rodeo of the year for 2003, National Western is sure to feature your favorite rodeo stars. **Information:** www.nationalwestern.com; 303-292-1708.

Dates TBA, **Winter Range 2004:** Phoenix, AZ. This year's national Old West shooting competition, encampment and frontier exhibition features a three-day, 12-stage match plus tents full of trade goods. **Information:** www.winterrange.com; 480-814-2767.

February 2004

Dates TBA, **10th Annual Trail Dust Days—Cowboy Traditions Festival:** Trail Dust Town, Tucson, AZ. This three-day event coincides with Tucson's La Fiesta de los Vaqueros (Rodeo Week). The festival has continual live entertainment and showcases the finest, authentic cowboy gear-makers, artisans, Western craftspeople and cowboy collectibles dealers. **Information:** www.traildusttown.com; 520-296-4551.

March 2004

2-21, **Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo:** Reliant Arena, Houston, TX. Houston's livestock show ranges from cattle and sheep to horses and rabbits, with both adults and junior exhibitors competing. RodeoHouston is the world's richest regular-season rodeo. **Information:** www.nlsr.com; 832-667-1000.

18-21, **Festival of the West:** Westworld, Scottsdale, AZ. Four days of cowboy fun focused on the American West, with plenty of toe-tapping music, perfect rhyme and meter poetry, fast shootin' hard ridin' cowboys, Western heroes, chuck wagon cooking and great shopping. **Information:** www.festivalofthewest.com; 602-996-4367.

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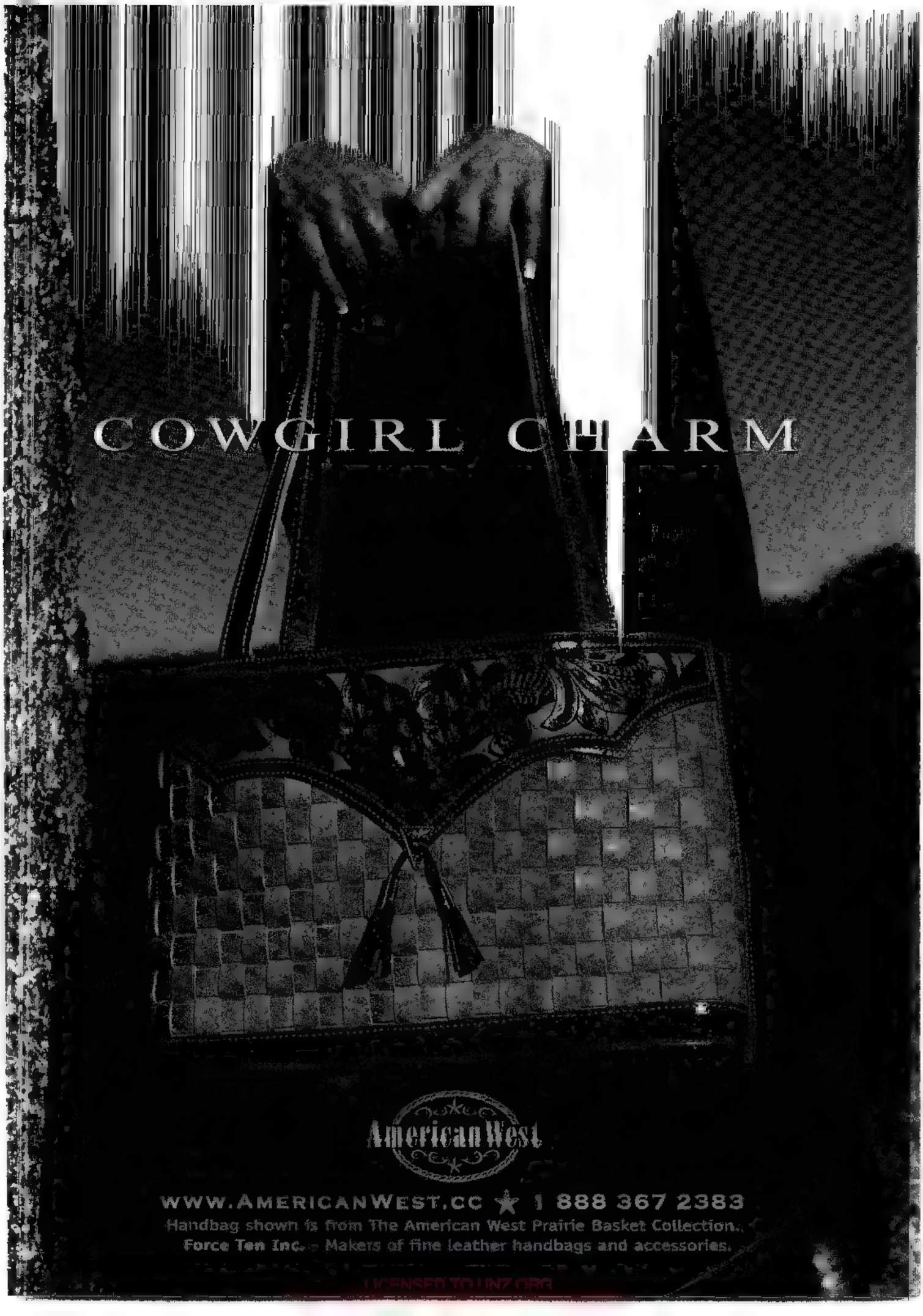
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BY ROSEMARY McKITTRICK

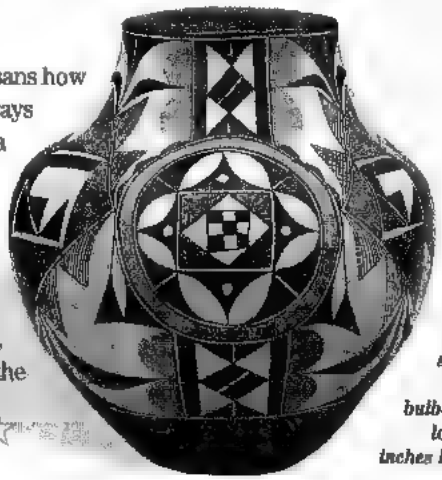
Skinner Auction

American Indian and ethnographic art.

Navajo legends speak of a Spider Woman who taught tribal artisans how to weave in ancient times on an extraordinary loom made of sunrays and lightning bolts. The Navajos say this deity still dwells in a sacred lair within Arizona's Canyon de Chelly, guiding the hands of its weavers.

The Navajos created and still create beautiful and practical handwoven blankets and rugs. Some say they are so tightly woven they could hold a bucket of water and not lose a drop.

On May 11, 2002, Skinner Auctioneers in Bolton, Massachusetts, held its American Indian & Ethnographic Art auction. The sale of the Native American items totaled $635,875.



Olla; Southwest polychrome; Acoma; late 19th century; small concave base with bulbous body and long neck; 12½ inches high; $14,100.

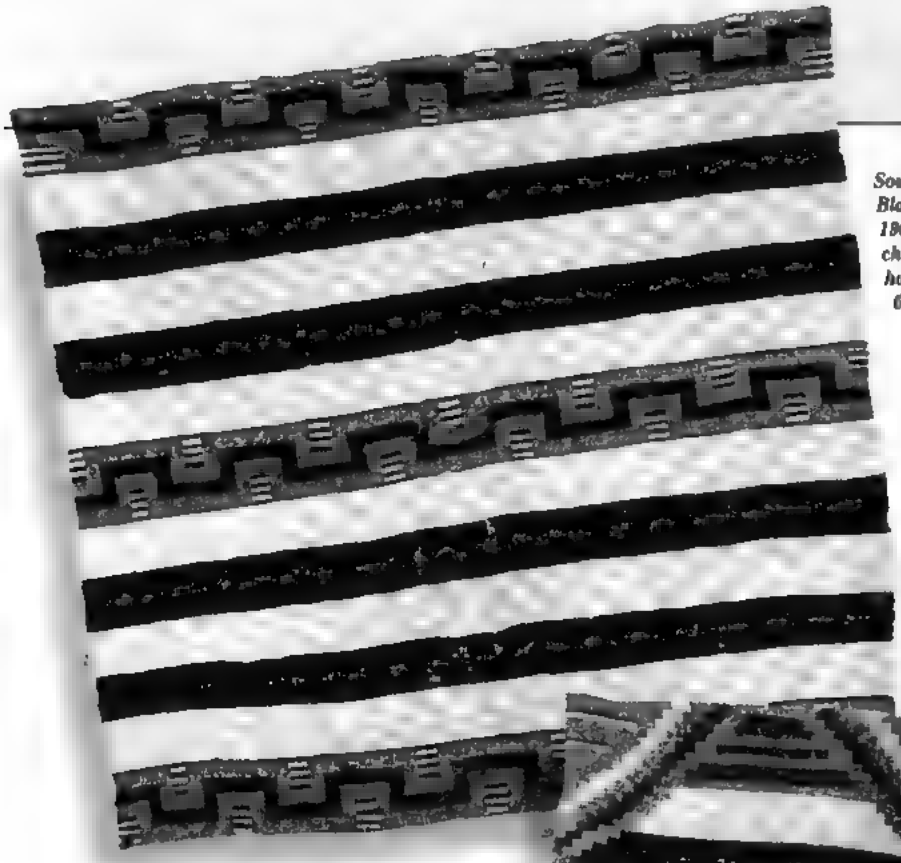
NOTABLE NATIVE AMERICAN LOTS INCLUDED

(ALL IMAGES COURTESY OF SKINNER AUCTIONS)

C.S. Fly, (American, 1849-1901); cabinet card photograph of Geronimo's parley with General Crook; 7⅛ by 4¼ inches; $7,344.

C.S. Fly; cabinet card photograph of captive white boy in Geronimo's Sierra Madre camp in the mountains of Mexico; 7⅛ by 4¼ inches; $6,463.

C.S. Fly; cabinet card photograph of Geronimo's parley with General Crook; 7⅛ by 4 inches; $7,050.



Southwest Man's Wearing Blanket; Navajo; third quarter 19th century; second phase chief's pattern woven in homespun and raveled wool; 66 by 60 inches; $58,750.

Southwest Man's Wearing Blanket; Navajo; third quarter 19th century; third phase chief's blanket woven in homespun and raveled wool; 72 by 56 inches; $11,750.

Northeast carved wood doll and polychrome wood cradle with beaded details; Iroquois; late 19th century; 13 inches high; $8,225.

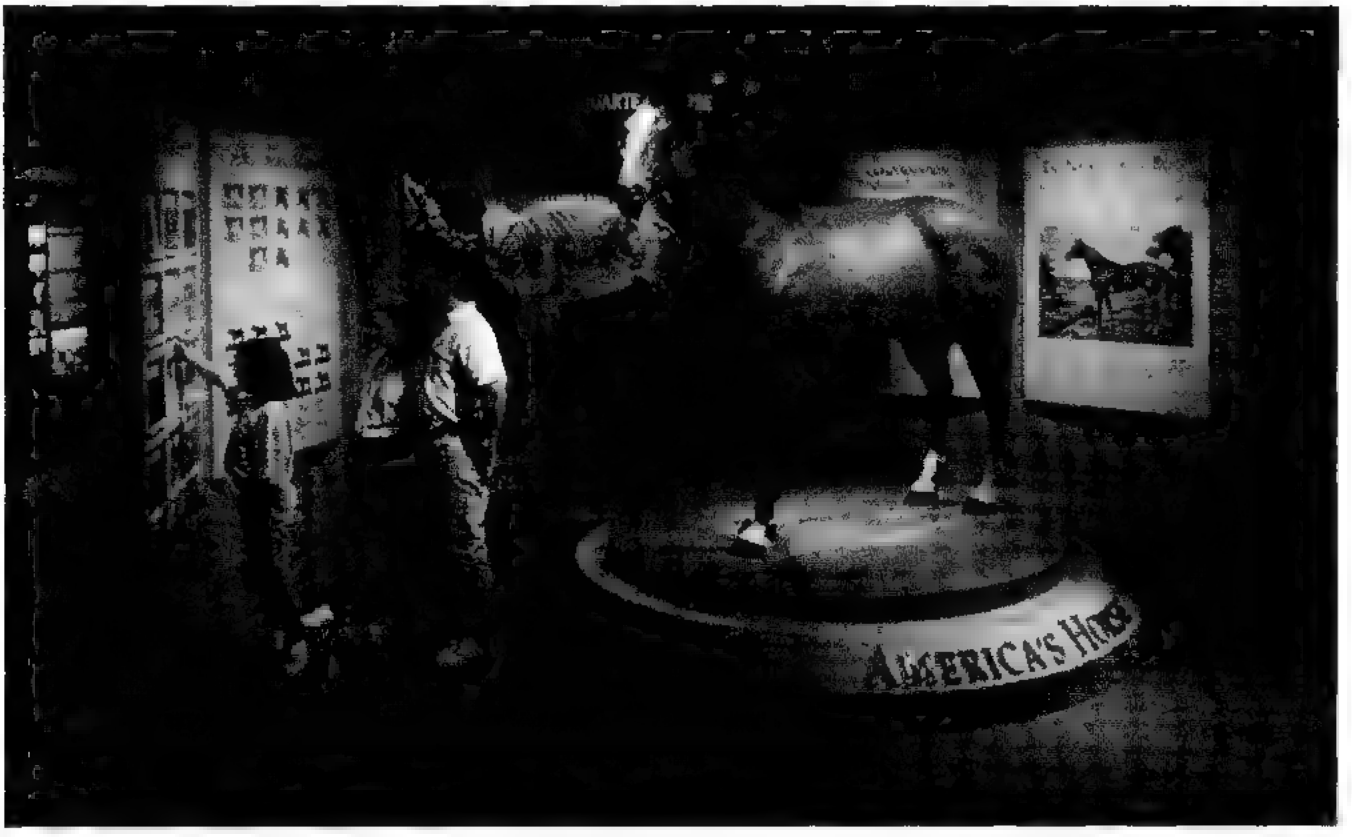
Upcoming Auctions

June 9

Native American, Pre-Columbian & Tribal Works of Art
www.butterfields.com

June 10

Antique Arms & Armor
www.butterfields.com



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AQHA Members receive free admission, so stop in and visit the American Quarter Horse Heritage Center & Museum. You'll discover a lifetime of fun in owning and riding an American Quarter Horse.

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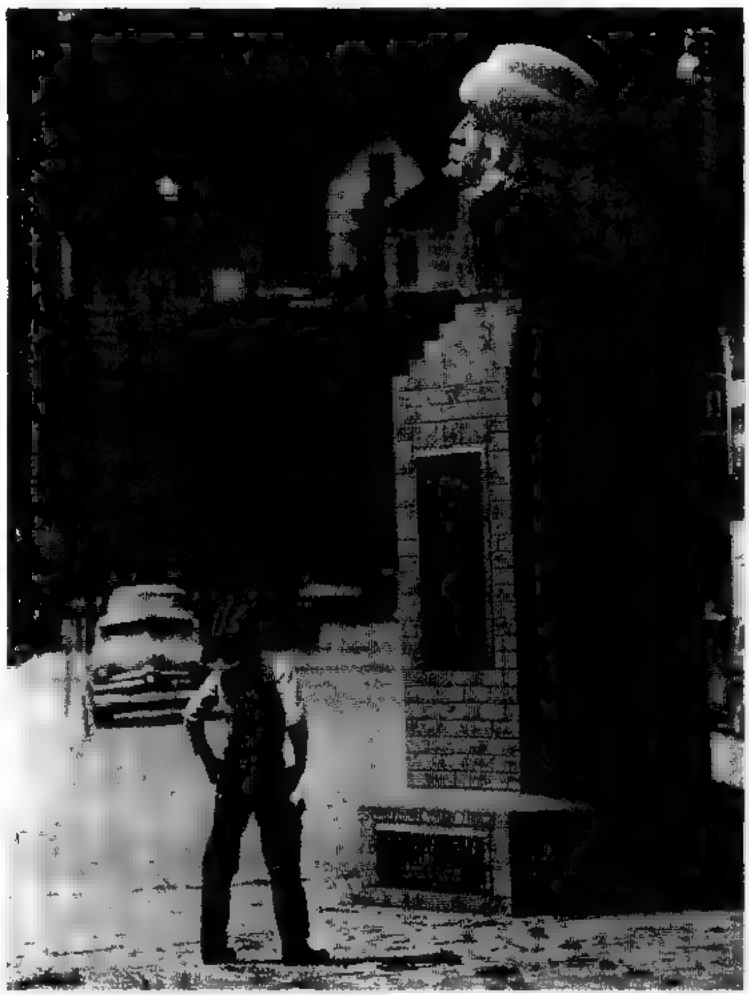


Wild Bill Hickok bust by sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski - Deadwood, SD.

Deadwood has it all!

ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

50 MOST

More than geography, it's a state of mind.

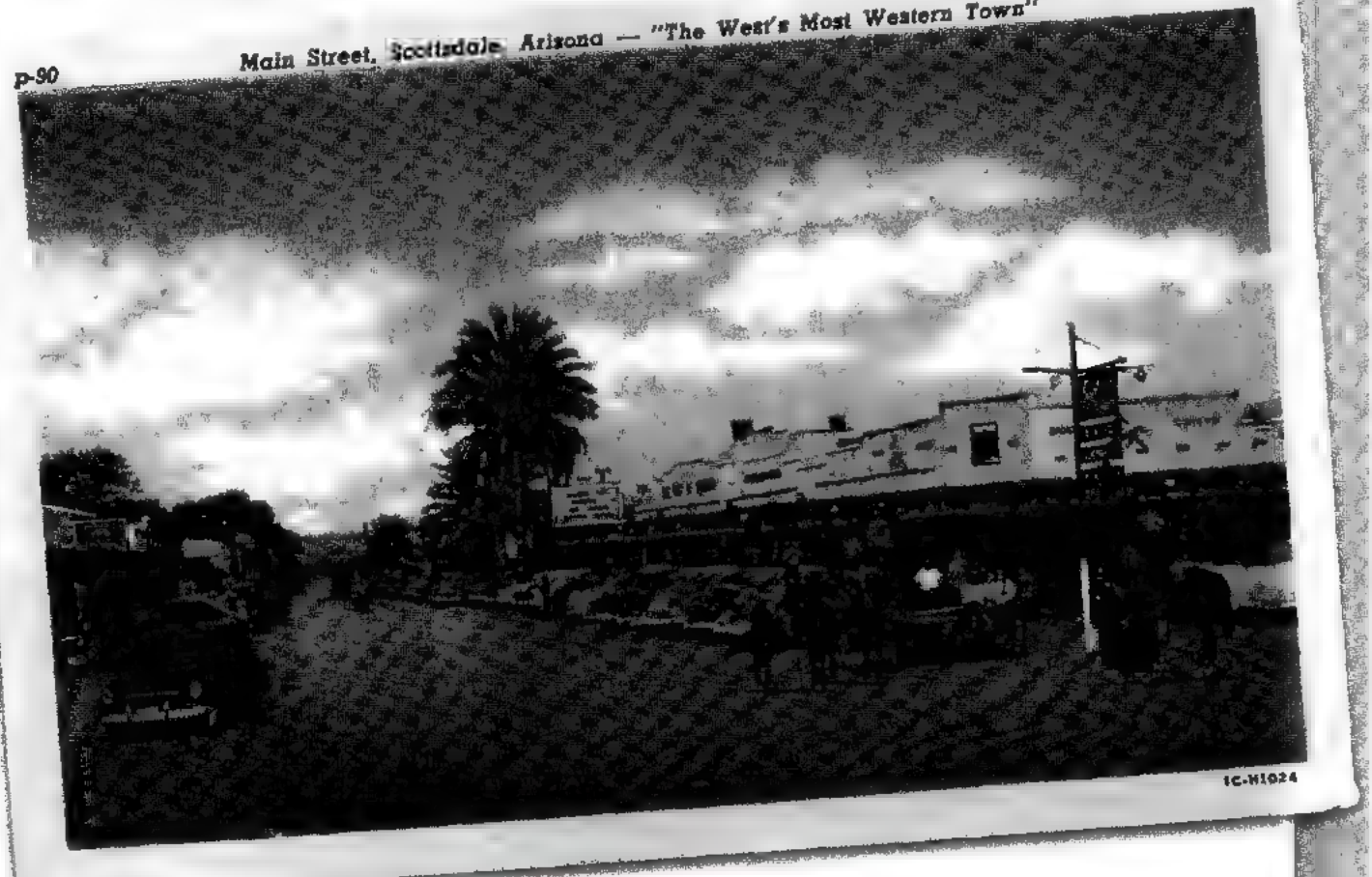
How do you choose the 50 most Western towns in America? We started with the towns whose links to Western history are so strong, they could pave over Boot Hill and still belong on the list. None have, of course, because they honor and respect their heritage. Many capitalize on their history for the benefit of new generations, and often those efforts are mighty fine. But beyond those towns whose names mean the Old West—Tombstone, Dodge City, Coffeyville—there are many others that maintain their Western spirit and still have that Western attitude.

So you won't find Scottsdale, Arizona, on this list, even though for decades it advertised itself as "The West's Most Western Town." It seldom uses that slogan anymore. In fact, in one of the most obnoxious campaigns we've ever seen, it once sold itself as "From Cowtown to Wowtown." Yuck!

No, when we talk Western towns, we mean places that are proud of the title. And so here, in alphabetical order, are our picks of America's 50 most Western towns.

At one time, Scottsdale, Arizona, lived up to its boast as the "West's Most Western Town," but no more. Today, gucci has replaced chaps and spurs.

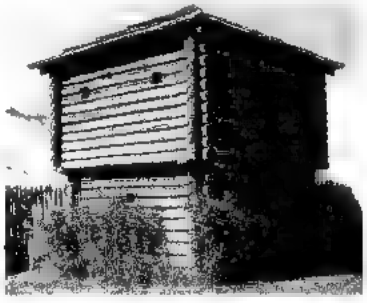
ALL IMAGES AND PHOTOS TRUE WEST ARCHIVES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED



AMARILLO, TEXAS

You'll find the center of the Texas Panhandle in Amarillo, where the Southern plains meet the desert. Some people claim you can see the curvature of the earth when the sun rises and sets here because of the wide-open spaces. Maybe that's why in 1877 Charles Goodnight founded the area's first ranch at the site of the Palo Duro Canyon State Park, where you can now savor a cowboy breakfast on the canyon's rim or see the musical *Texas* performed on the canyon's floor. For those who can stomach a challenge, head out to the Big Texan Steak Ranch and try eating the 72-ounce steak dinner in under an hour. If you succeed, your meal is free. In the nearby town of Canyon, visit Texas' largest history museum, the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, where you'll see a life-size reconstruction of an 1880s frontier town. In June, the Cowboy Roundup USA pits ranches against one another in the chuck wagon roundup, while cowboys and cowgirls compete in the Coors Ranch Rodeo. During the summer, the American Quarter Horse Association's museum features an outdoor horse show, along with its usual exhibits of the history of the quarter horse, America's oldest equine breed. And in November, the Working Ranch Cowboy's Association hosts its ranch rodeo, which also features cowboy art, poetry and music. Before you head home, ride the Texas Tornado at Wonderland Park and find out why it was voted the best double-loop steel roller coaster in the country.

Information: 800-692-1338; www.amarillo-cvb.org



Fort Astoria blockhouse replica.

By Karen A. Robertson –

ASTORIA, OREGON

Fort Clatsop—a short distance from present-day Astoria—was the Western end of Lewis and Clark's journey some 200 years ago. Then a few years later, John Jacob Astor's fur traders established Fort Astoria as a fur trading center. And during World War II, a Japanese submarine fired at the town. But history isn't the only exciting thing about this Victorian port city in the northwest corner of Oregon. Its chamber likes to say the entire town of Astoria is a museum. This friendly city has been called "Little San Francisco of the Northwest," and was once known as the "Salmon Canning Capital of the World." Today, it's a town of about 10,000 residents who have a strong Scandinavian influence. Astoria boasts a working waterfront and new aquatic center. Don't miss the Fort Clatsop National Monument—six miles from Astoria—which has been reconstructed at the site of Lewis and Clark's winter home. And you'll want to ride around town on the Riverfront Trolley, a restored 1913 streetcar.

Information: 800-875-6807; www.oldoregon.com

ANGELS CAMP, CALIFORNIA

Mark Twain put this former gold rush boomtown on the map with his short story, "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County." Today, you can throw back a beer at the Angels Hotel, where Twain set his story, and see for yourself that Angels Camp still hops. Better yet, enter your own Dan'l Webster in the town's Jumping Frog Jubilee and try beating the current world record of 21 feet 5.75 inches set by Rosie the Ribeter. The Jubilee is held the third week of May and coincides with the Calaveras county fair. While you're here, visit nearby Murphys to take in Mercer Caverns, a cave noted for its crystalline formations. The world's largest gold crystalline specimen, weighing 44 lbs., is showcased at Ironstone Vineyards, where you can also taste some of California's finest wine. When you're ready to head home, don't forget your four-legged amphibian.

Information: 800-225-3764; www.visitcalaveras.org

Orient Saloon at Bisbee, Arizona, in 1900, taken by C.S. Fly. Faro players (left to right) Tony Downs, co-owner; Doyle, concert hall singer; Johnny Murphy, dealer and Smiley Lewis.

BISBEE, ARIZONA

Bisbee's Sacramento Pit was Arizona's first open pit copper mine; the town's boom lasted from 1917 1929. (Copper ore was also mined from the Lavender Pit from 1951-1975.) Brewery Gulch was once the hot spot between El Paso and San Francisco because A.B. Seiber's adobe saloon offered free beer samples. Arizona's first stock exchange was in the Muheim building, which compelled Baptiste Caretto, Joseph Muheim and other prominent citizens to build Bisbee homes, which are still standing. One of the original owners of the Queen Mine, George Warren, is on Arizona's state seal. A ride on the new Bisbee trolley will take you to the Queen Mine, Arizona's only underground mine, and the Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum, a Smithsonian Institute affiliate, where you can see mineral displays and hear the town's mining history. Golf at the Turquoise Valley Golf Course where you'll find Arizona's longest hole (727 yards, par 6). After your round, have a drink at St. Elmo's Bar, Arizona's oldest continually operating saloon, before heading back to kick up your heels at the Copper Queen Hotel, once host to Teddy Roosevelt.

Information: 866-2-Bisbee; www.bisbeearizona.com

50 MOS

Cody at rush hour.

BY BBB –

CARSON CITY, NEVADA

Named indirectly for mountain man Kit Carson when the town took its name from the Carson River, which John C. Fremont had named for his scout in 1844. Walk along the Kit Carson Trail to see the West's largest historical homes district. During the Kit Carson Wild West Tour in May, locals often share stories from the good old days, or you can settle for the radios broadcasting stories from 24 talking houses. John Wayne lovers should visit the Krebs-Peterson house on Mountain Street, the site for *The Shootist*. In March, be sure to attend the Annual Jubilee and Poetry, and in April, mountain men re-enactors and gun lovers enjoy the Eagle Valley Muzzle Loaders Spring Rendezvous. Each June, the Carson City Rendezvous thrills Western enthusiasts of all ages. Cowboys who love their cars as much as their horses should be in town in late July for the Silver Dollar Car Classic.

Information: 800-Nevada-1; www.visitcarsoncity.com

CHEYENNE, WYOMING

The town went from a "Hell on Wheels" railroad camp to a world-renowned city once the knee-high prairie grass proved to be excellent forage for cattle. Cheyenne is now home to the world's largest steam locomotive, the Big Boy, weighing in at 1,208,750 lbs. Treat yourself to the "Daddy of 'Em All" Cheyenne Frontier Days rodeo celebration in July. After watching the Cheyenne Gunslingers downtown, cheer the hero and boo the villain in the *Western Melodrama* hosted at the Atlas Theater, July through early August. Learn why Tom Horn once said "Killing men is my specialty," at the Old Courthouse exhibit. In nearby Pine Bluffs, witness archaelogical excavations by University of Wyoming students and see human artifacts dating back 10,000 years.

Cheyenne offers PRCA action at its best.

Information: 800-426-5009; www.cheyenne.org

CODY, WYOMING

Buffalo Bill's Wild West spirit still livens up this city that was founded by William F. Cody in 1896. Five separate museums showcasing art, the Plains Indians, firearms, the Yellowstone ecosystem and Buffalo Bill are housed in the Buffalo Bill Historical Center. To glimpse rugged pioneer spirit, mosey on down to Meeteetse, a surviving cowboy town, or stroll through the Historic Trail Town, where you can visit Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid's Hole-in-the-Wall cabin and mountain man Jeremiah Johnson's grave. During the summer, head to the "rodeo capital of the world" and grab one of the coveted Buzzard's Roost seats to view the action. On your way to Yellowstone Park, drive through the Wapiti Valley and see "the most scenic 50 miles in the world," according to President Teddy Roosevelt.

Information: 800-393-Cody; www.pctc.org

COFFEYVILLE, KANSAS

The very name conjures up images of a thwarted bank robbery and dead outlaws. But it's not the Dalton Gang that Coffeyville most wants to remember about an 1892 October day that put it in the Western history books. The town would rather remember a couple of shoemakers, a dry goods clerk and a school teacher. These four brave men, who confronted the robbers and died on the side of the law, may have been "average Coffeyville citizens" in their day, but their memories are now solidified in the Dalton Defenders Museum. Visitors can relive the historic raid by visiting the restored Perkins Building—home to the Condon Bank. Bronze markers tell where the defenders fell. Death Alley contains the Old Jail, where a recording relates details of the raid. In Elmwood Cemetery, a granite stone marks the graves of three of the gang—Bob and Grat Dalton and Bill Power. The fourth bandit killed in the raid is buried elsewhere. Outlaw Emmett Dalton served 14 years of a life sentence before being pardoned; recently found records of his trial are on display at the Defenders' Museum.

Information: 800-626-3357; www.coffeyville.com

Bennett Avenue at First Street in Cripple Creek, July 1893.

COURTESY COLORADO HISTORICAL SOCIETY –

Deadwood and the No. 10 Saloon today.

COURTESY THADD TURNER

CRIPPLE CREEK, COLORADO

The last and greatest American gold rush occurred at Cripple Creek, where you can see how hard-rock mining is done in the Mollie Kathleen Gold Mine. Mollie Kathleen Gortner staked out the mine in the 1890s but turned its management over to her son because the miners wouldn't work for a woman. From the American Eagles Overlook, you'll see the Sangre de Cristo Mountain Range and the modern-day operations of the Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mining Company. It currently has the largest open-pit mine in Colorado. Just watch out for the wild donkeys. They've been known to surround motorists who stop to take their picture.

Information: 877-858-GOLD; www.cripple-creek.co.us

DEADWOOD, SOUTH DAKOTA

"Wild Bill Hickok spent the summer of 1876 in Deadwood. He never went home," is how the chamber of commerce promotes this national historic landmark in the Black Hills of South Dakota. For over a century, the famous and infamous have been drawn to this Victorian commerce center, which is the nation's largest historical preservation project. Wild Bill's not the only one who resides in the town's Mount Moriah Cemetery. So does Calamity Jane. You can still gamble at Deadwood's legendary gaming halls, and authentic recreations of turn-of-the-century street lamps light the way through carefully restored architecture. And please, don't miss the original Deadwood Stage. As the locals say, "Deadwood's history is so close you can reach out and touch it."

Information: 800-999-1876; www.deadwood.org

DALLAS/FORT WORTH, TEXAS

Folks in these parts didn't need a TV show to know that Dallas combines Western history and modern sophistication. After all, Dallas gave us the titans of oil and Neiman Marcus, which first opened its upscale doors in 1907. Texans say Dallas has been moving up since 1841, when John Neely Bryan established a trading post beside the Trinity River. These days, the world's largest bronze monument stands at the Dallas Convention Center: 40 larger-than-life longhorn steers and three mounted cowboys in a Texas cattle drive. The city has over 160 museums and galleries, and is one of the nation's leading convention sites. The twin city of Fort Worth boasts the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame, a major tourist draw by its lonesome. But then, you have to expect a lot from a state that's bigger than France, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland and Luxembourg combined.

Information: 214-571-1000; www.visitdallas.com

DENVER, COLORADO

Not only fortune seekers came to this boomtown, affectionately called the "Queen City of the Plains," so too did Katharine Lee Bates who was inspired to write "America the Beautiful," after touring Pikes Peak in 1893. Find out more about Denver's past during its history celebration on Larimer Square in May. Western Welcome Week in August in nearby Littleton allows you to mix with the locals and enjoy crafts, live performances and fireworks. And if you desire a refreshing brew, the two-day LoDo Brewfest is in June and the Great American Beer Festival, with 1,600 beers to taste, is held at the Colorado Convention Center in October. Other adventures include watching the buffalo roam (off I-70 at exit 250), touring Denver's living history farm and oldest home at the Four Mile Historic Park and viewing exhibits about two pioneer families who lived in what is now the Byers-Evans House Museum.

Denver's St. Louis Hall and Bowling Alley, c. 1870.

Information: 303-534-8500; www.denverchamber.org

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N

A small group has gathered on the front porch of the Dodge House along Dodge City's Front Street, 1879.

– Courtesy Kansas State Historical Society

50 MOST

DODGE CITY, KANSAS

In this "Queen of the Cow Towns" you can drive down a replica of 1876 Front Street and be reminded the town was once divided in two. The half lying north of the Arkansas River and west of the 100th meridian was included in the Louisiana Purchase, whereas the part south of the river remained in Spanish territory and eventually saw the flags of five nations: Spain, France, Mexico, the Republic of Texas and the United States. At some point, many of the West's main characters worked, played or terrorized Dodge City, including Wyatt, Doc and Bat. Be sure to visit the Boot Hill Museum, a Western village located on the original site of the Boot Hill Cemetery. There's also a dinner theater, the restored Carnegie Library and the Coronado Cross, a 38-foot monument marking the spot where Coronado is said to have crossed the Arkansas River in 1541 in search of the "Cities of Gold." Some think he found it here.

Information: 800-OLD WEST; www.visitdodgecity.org

Durango strikes up the band for a 4th of July parade in the late 1800s.

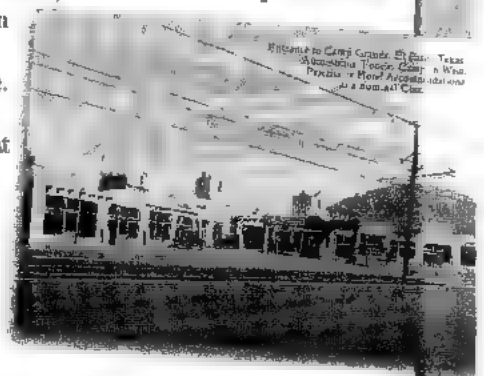
DURANGO, COLORADO

It's easy to remember the founding year of Durango, because it's the same as the last digits of *True West*'s phone number: 1881. But there's lots more to tie this frontier mining town in the Animas River Valley to those interested in the true West. As its chamber of commerce likes to say, Durango is "where ranches, rolling hills, breathtaking beauty and a storytelling river harken back to the days when people had the time, and took the time, to slow down and simply visit. With their family, their neighbors, and on a good day, themselves." (Half our staff is packed and ready to go!) You can spend a day looking out the window of a 120-year-old steam engine, while riding the Narrow Gauge between Durango and Silverton. Or you can walk in the footsteps of the vanished Anasazi in Mesa Verde. Or visit some of the region's 4,000 cliff dwellings. Of course, there's trout fishing, snow skiing, chuck wagon dinners, rodeos, carriage rides and did we mention the picture-postcard beauty? Oh yes, we did.

Information: 866-294-5187; www.durango.org

EL PASO, TEXAS

History's deadliest gunfighter, John Wesley Hardin, often left dead men behind when he rode away from town. But when he rode into El Paso in 1895, his luck ran out. Hardin's reported last words were, "Four sixes to beat," just before John Selman shot him in the back of the head in the Acme Saloon. Visit theirs and other gunfighters' graves at the Concordia Cemetery. You may also see gunfight re-enactments by Six Guns & Shady Ladies. El Paso's First Thanksgiving, National Tourism Week and Cinco de Mayo are celebrated in one bang-up Heritage Festival from April 26 to May 5. Texans don't believe Plymouth Rock was the site of the first Thanksgiving. Rather, Juan de Onate's explorers held the first such celebration 78 years earlier, on the banks of the Rio Grande. More ethnic history celebrations await you at the McKelligon Canyon Amphitheater, where 400 years of Native American, Spanish, Mexican and Western American experiences are told through traditional dance, songs, costumes and special effects from June 12 to Aug. 16. You must also visit the Lower Valley Missions where three of the oldest American missions—Ysleta, Socorro and the San Elizario Chapel—lie within eight miles of each other.



Information: 800-351-6024; www.visitelpaso.com

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, COLORADO

In Victorian times, it was known as the "Spa in the Rockies," and the title still holds true. Mineral water flows through natural vapor caves at 125 degrees Fahrenheit, the only such caves known to exist in North America. Ute Indians visited them for healing and rejuvenation. See cave bacon and Jabba the Hutt at the Glenwood Caverns, named by *USAToday* as one of the top 10 places to go underground. For those with a hankering to wet a fly, two rivers run through this year-round fishing spot—closed only during rainbow trout spawning season from March 15 to May 15—where the "Gold Medal Waters" have trout measuring 14 inches or longer. When heading downtown for a bite to eat, visit the Hotel Colorado, which is a replica of the Medici Palace. Also check out the site of the Hotel Glenwood, the last home of Doc Holliday.

Doc Holliday spent his last days here in the Glenwood Hotel.

Information: 970-945-6589; www.glenwoodchamber.com

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Charlie Russell, in front of his log cabin studio, in Great Falls.

GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

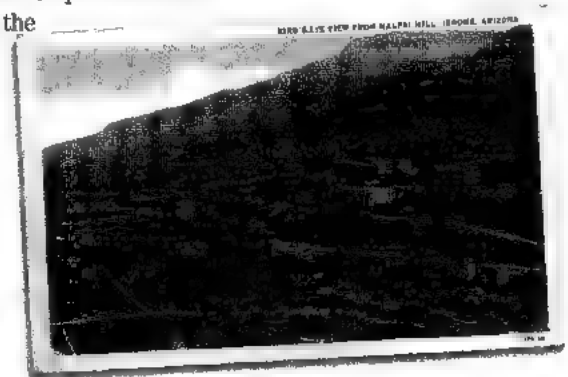
Lewis & Clark, Charlie Russell and the Plains Indians left their marks on this city where bald eagles soar and the Missouri drops over the waterfalls that give the city its name. Charlie Russell's art traced the history of the cowboy and open range. Now you can trace Russell's life at the C M. Russell Museum, and picture him entertaining friends at his 1903 Log Studio, housed in the museum's complex, next door to his home. View America's oldest Indian buffalo jumps at the Ulm Pishkun State Park. Visit the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center to learn the Corps of Discovery's history. In nearby Fort Benton, the Museum of the Northern Great Plains has exhibits on three generations of Montana farmers.

Information: 800-735-8535; www.greatfallschamber.org

GUTHRIE, OKLAHOMA

This territorial city is now the United States' largest historical district. Careful architectural restoration brought grandeur back to Guthrie, which was Oklahoma's first capital city before it was stripped of its state seal in 1910. Be sure to stop in and learn pharmaceutical history at the Frontier Drugstore Museum, located in Guthrie because it was home to Foress B. Lillie, who participated in "Harisson's Hoss Race" in 1889 and became one of Oklahoma's pharmaceutical founders. Grab your partner and swing to the music of the Guthrie Jazz Banjo Festival in May and Oklahoma's International Bluegrass Festival in October. Your ears will thank you if you also visit the National Four-String Banjo Hall of Fame Museum. In December, pour a cup of wassail and stroll through a 19th-century Christmas on the Victorian Walk, with living windows displaying first capital life.

Information: 800-299-1889; www.guthrieok.com



Looking up Bridge Street, now called State Street, in Helena, 1865.

HELENA, MONTANA

This gold rush boomtown is rare because it didn't die down once the mining was done. It became Montana's state capital. Stroll through a restored miners' village, Reeder's Alley, where you can see how both sides lived: a one-room apartment that was once home to many miners, and the Victorian mansions where the wealthy industrialists lived. Touch the hand-hewn logs of the 1864 Pioneer Cabin, a typical home of its time, on your way to see the Charlie Russell paintings at the Montana Historical Society Museum. Take a cruise up the Missouri River to the canyon that Meriwether Lewis called "Gates of the Mountains" in 1805, and hike the Continental Divide Trail, where you may encounter moose, mountain goats and bighorn sheep. Montana's Irish Festival is held in March, and in July, you'll want to attend the Last Chance Stampede Fair and Rodeo or the East Helena Rodeo. For a taste of frontier architecture from the 1880s silver boom, drive to Elkhorn Ghost Town, where many of the buildings are dotted with bullet holes.

Information: 800-743-5362; www.helenachamber.com

JEROME, ARIZONA

On Cleopatra Hill, you'll find Arizona's largest "ghost town." Once a thriving silver and copper mining camp that nearly dried up after the ore played out, today's Jerome is a thriving artist community. In 1918, open pit mining caused the surface to shift and sections of the business district slid downhill—you can visit the sliding jail that moved 225 feet. For mine walking tours visit the Jerome Historical Society Mine Museum, where you'll see the Gold King Mine and ghost town. For today's riches, browse the Mingus Art Center to see artists' studios and galleries. The Jerome Home & Historic Building Tour is held the third weekend in May. The Gold King Mine Antique Truck Show is held in June and the Gold King Mine Volkswagen Jamboree takes place in September.

Information: www.jeromechamber.com

"A primitive artist is an amateur whose work sells."

- Grandma Moses (1860-1961)

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50 MOST

KANAB, UTAH

"It's a little Hollywood all on its own," said William Wellman, director of *Buffalo Bill*. You can see the movie set in the Paria River Valley, where movies and TV shows such as *Buffalo Bill*, *Gunsmoke* and *The Outlaw Josie Wales* were filmed. It also contains the old Pahreah townsite, settled by 47 agrarian families who were visited by John Wesley Powell and peacemaker Jacob Hamblin. With Bryce Canyon's hoodoos, Lake Powell's finger canyons and Indian ruins, the Grand Canyon's North Rim, Moqui Cave's dinosaur tracks, the Coral Pink Sand Dunes and the Anasazi's homestead of Zion Canyon all nearby, you'll see some of the greatest earth on show. Also tour the Pipe Spring National Monument, where you'll see the Mormon fort Winsor Castle and drive to Grafton Ghost Town, where Redford and Newman filmed part of *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*. In nearby Orderville, learn about early Mormon history and view photos at the Daughters of Utah Pioneers Museum. Painters and writers often visit Maynard Dixon's summer home on Mt. Carmel. Whatever you do in and around Utah's "Little Hollywood," be sure to see Western stars shine at the Western Legends Round-up, held each August.

Information: 800-733-5263; www.kaneutah.com

KEARNEY, MISSOURI

The minutes from a board meeting of Kearney's Mt. Olivet Baptist Church in the 1800s note: "A group of brethren have been asked to talk with Mr. James about his activities." If the talk ever happened, it did little to squash the activities of one of the church's choir members, better known as the leader of the James Gang. Jesse James is buried in the west end of Mt. Olivet Cemetery, as is his wife, Zerelda; his mother, also named Zerelda; his stepfather and his half brother. After Jesse was shot in the back by Robert Ford in St. Joseph in 1882, his body was brought home to Kearney and buried at his birthplace, the old James farm. In 1902, the remains were dug up and reburied at the church cemetery—only to be dug up again in 1996 for DNA testing to prove it really was Jesse. When the experts found it was, he was re-interred, hopefully forever. The James farm was once 275 acres but now is only 40. The original farmhouse still stands and is open to the public, all part of the Jesse James Farm Home and Museum. The third weekend in September, the town hosts the Jesse James Festival.

Information: 816-628-4229

LARAMIE, WYOMING

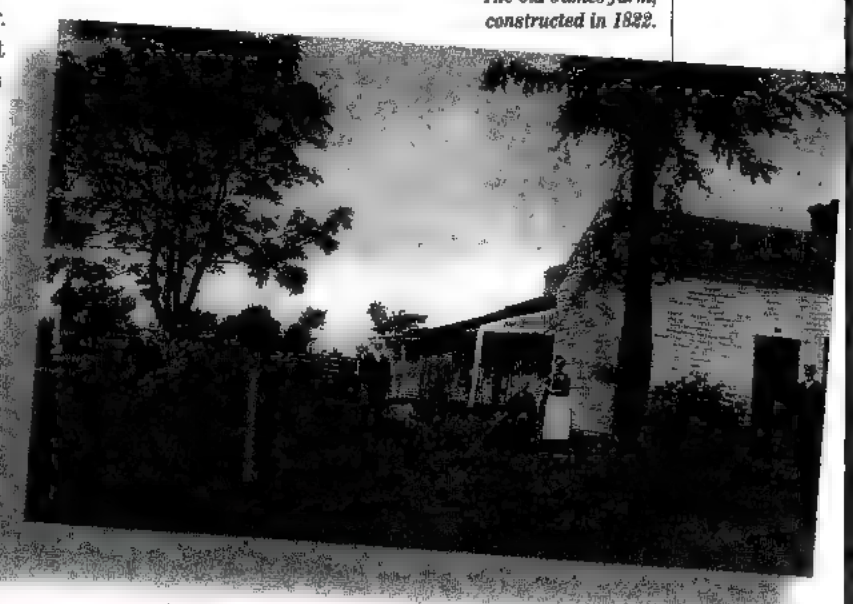
If you want to go to "an outdoor town with an outlaw past," then Laramie is a good bet. It still has cattle drives, wagon trains, shoot-outs, a historical downtown, prairie and mountain vistas, rodeos and guest ranches. And did we mention the town is filled with museums? There's the US Marshals Museum, Wyoming Children's Museum and Nature Center, Laramie Plains Museum, Rock River Museum (everything from dinosaur digs to community history) and Nici Self Museum (filled with mining, railroad, ranching and lumbering displays). Don't forget the University of Wyoming's Anthropology Museum, Geological Museum and American Heritage Center. Laramie makes a big deal of the nation's birthday, with 12 Jubilee Days around July 4th. And Laramie is no Johnny-come-lately Western town: Native Americans lived here at least 8,000 years before the arrival of the white man. So we guess the town is here to stay.

Information: 800-933-3901

LAS CRUCES/MESILLA, NEW MEXICO

A crossroads of Hispanic, Indian and American cultures, the city of the crosses is named for the many memorial crosses erected to honor those killed during the Apache wars. Today's battles are less deadly but more spicy as chile lovers find a hot rivalry in the May cook-off between Texas and New Mexico at the New Mexico Wine and Chile War Festival. Visit the nation's largest agriculture museum, the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, which hosts La Fiesta de San Ysidro in May with farming and cooking demonstrations celebrating the 3,000-year-old history of farming, and Cowboy Days in October to honor New Mexico's ranchers. Start off the fall by watching the making of what the *Guinness Book* says is the world's largest enchilada at the Whole Enchilada Fiesta, Sept. 27-29. Be sure to visit the historic plaza in nearby Mesilla, where both the Gadsden Purchase was signed and Billy the Kid stood trial.

Information: 505-541-2444; www.lascrucescvb.org



The old James farm, constructed in 1822.

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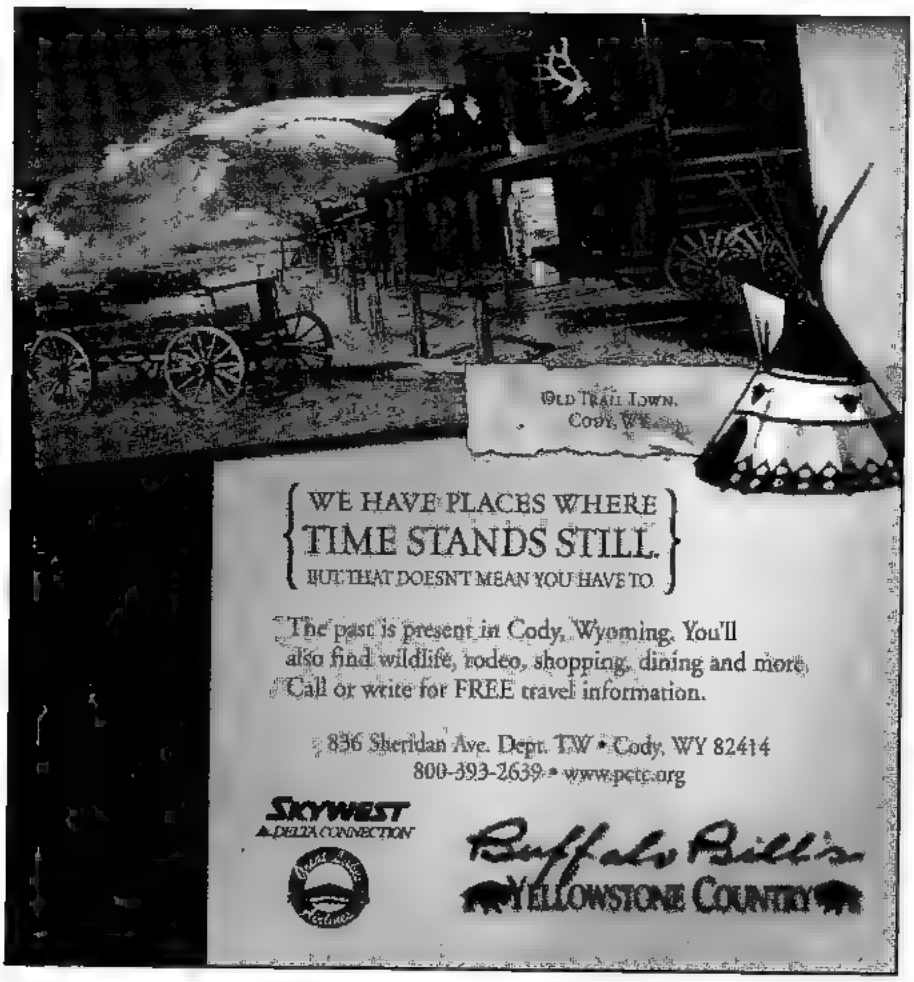

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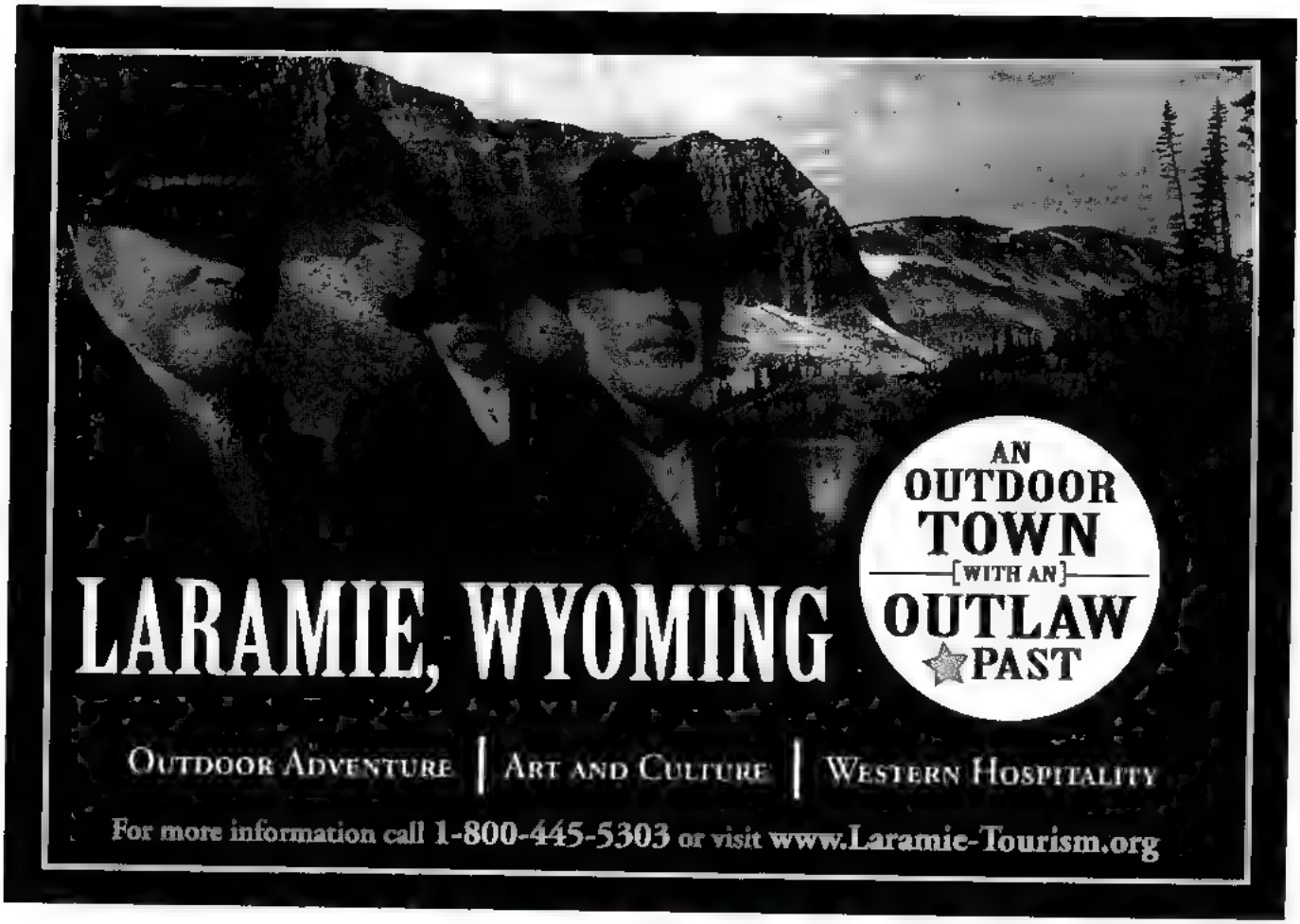

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Tabor Opera House, a monument to the "Silver King" Horace Tabor.

COURTESY STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF COLORADO

LEADVILLE, COLORADO

Once the American West's greatest silver camp, this mining town helped build Colorado. Leadville was home to "Silver King" Horace Tabor, Titanic's "Unsinkable" Molly Brown and Doc Holliday. Stay at the Delaware Hotel, where the Silver King's mistress, Baby Doe, frequently wrote letters before heading back to her wooden shack at the once booming Matchless Mine. During the summer you can watch the Baby Doe Tabor drama at Healy House, go on fish hatchery tours and drive the Route of the Silver Kings, where you'll see mine cribs, head frames, hoist houses and cabins. Go to the National Mining Museum & Hall of Fame, which showcases past and present mining methods and equipment. A historical walking tour will take you past the Annunciation Church where Molly Brown's wedding and Baby Doe's funeral were held, and the Hyman Block where Doc Holliday shot his last man (non-fatally).

Information: 800-933-3901; www.leadvilleusa.com

LINCOLN, NEW MEXICO

During the 1878 Lincoln County War, John Henry Tunstall's gang, called the Regulators, fought to take control of the town from civilian merchants, known as the House, who had a monopoly on trade. Regulator Billy the Kid made one of the West's most famous escapes from the Lincoln County Courthouse jail. Billy the Kid addicts head here in August for the *Last Escape of Billy the Kid* folk pageant, when Billy the Kid escapes not once, but three times! Mountain men exhibit their skills all weekend long, while the 4th Texas Cavalry from Lubbock waves its sabers and rides its horses. There's also a Pony Express Trail Ride over Billy the Kid's trails. For those with a penchant for Old West fashion, stop at the Lincoln County Heritage and Historical Center. The center's clothing displays feature the American cowboy, Hispanics, Apaches and Western black cavalrymen.

Information: 505-653-4025; www.hubbardmuseum.com

LIVINGSTON, MONTANA

The nation's longest, free-flowing river, the Yellowstone, meanders through Livingston, which is encircled by four mountain ranges and is the only year-round gateway to Yellowstone National Park. You may recognize this beautiful country because Robert Redford filmed *The River Runs Through It* and *The Horse Whisperer* here. Fishing enthusiasts should visit the national headquarters for fly fishing education to get a heads-up on the best trout streams. For the winter outdoor enthusiast, there are 84 miles of groomed snowmobile trails in the nearby Gallatin National Forest.

Information: 406-222-0850; www.yellowstone-chamber.com

MADELIA, MINNESOTA

Madelia was a quiet prairie town before the Younger brothers were captured about eight miles west of here, shortly after the James-Younger Gang's attempted bank robbery in nearby Northfield. The Younger brothers' capture is depicted in a mural on the Christensen Building, the county's oldest brick building and now a two-room hotel. On the second weekend after Labor Day, Madelia citizens re-enact the Youngers' capture in its showcase of local heroes, like Captain William Murphy. The captain was a member of Minnesota's Magnificent Seven and was shot during the gun battle with the Youngers, but a briar pipe in his breast pocket deflected the bullet. Be sure to visit the Watonwan County Historical Center to see its collection of historical papers, photographs and artifacts about area pioneers. Finish your day at the site of Fort Cox, where a Sioux Indian uprising occurred in 1862.

Information: 507-642-8822; www.madeliamn.com

Madelia, Minnesota, about three years after the city's Magnificent Seven posse ran down the Younger brothers at Hanska Slough.

– COURTESY JOHN KOBLAS –

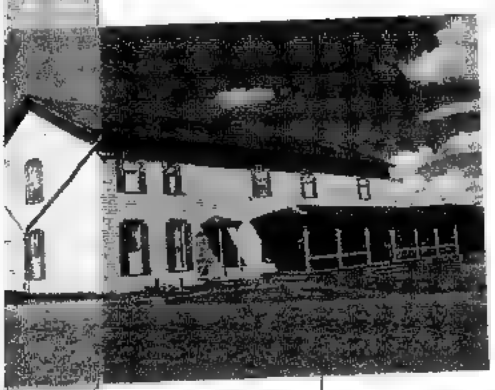
McCALL, IDAHO

Until the early 1980s, local bars still allowed firearms in this old-time mining and timber town that is now a lake port. In the Central Idaho Historical Museum, visit the Fire Warden's House and Machine Shop to see exhibits from McCall's logging days. Visit Finnish settlers' log homes and other frontier exhibits at the Long Valley Museum in nearby Roseberry. In the fall, the hills are ablaze with reds, oranges and yellows of aspens and tamaracks and you may see everything from elk to butterflies. Or you can experience the "thrill of the hunt," with such game as black bears, mountain lions and antelope. Or go rock climbing on the Needles, one of Idaho's longest, continuous granite walls. The best way to end your day is at one of the local hot springs resorts. Paddle up the South Fork of the Payette River for the Whitewater Round-up and Kayak Rodeo held in July, or go on a fishing trip (huge rainbow trout are often caught in late spring). The United States' third-largest harmonica festival, held in August in nearby Yellow Pine, is one of many summer music festivals in the McCall area. For winter carnival fun, see McCall's huge snow sculptures and attend the Torchlight Parade on Little Ski Hill. For those who never thought horses and skiing went together, lash a rope to your horse's saddle horn and go equestrian ski-joring.

Information: 800-260-5130; www.mccall-idchamber.org

MEDORA, NORTH DAKOTA:

Teddy Roosevelt came to hunt buffalo in 1883 and never really left, calling his years in the Badlands "the romance of my life." The love affair continues as Medora—nestled in the rolling hills of Western North Dakota near the Theodore Roosevelt National Park—celebrates its flamboyant early days of cattle and has become one of the premier family entertainment destinations in the nation. The Chateau deMores, a state historical site, chronicles the life and times of Marquis deMores and his wife, Medora, the town's namesake. From early June through Labor Day, a lively variety show with a wonderful Western theme plays in a gorgeous amphitheater, and don't miss the pitchfork steak dinner beforehand. There's more to experience: trail rides, antique shopping, birding, hiking, mountain biking, canoeing. . . . Roosevelt's spirit lives on in Medora. If you missed it the first time, you missed a "bully" great adventure.



The Chateau de Mores, built in early 1880s and occupied by the de Mores when they stayed in the Badlands.

Information: 701-623-4910; www.medorand.com

NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

Looking east into Mill Square (beyond the iron bridge) with the Northfield Bank building around the corner. This is the view the James-Younger Gang members had as they rode into town.

– COURTESY NORTHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY –

After the townspeople thwarted the James-Younger Gang's seven-minute bank robbery, the bandits rode out of Northfield along what is now known as the Outlaw Trail. You can follow the trail from Oddfellows Grove, where the outlaws rendezvoused before the raid, to the bank they tried to rob and to the Big Woods. The Defeat of Jesse James Days celebrates the citizens' heroic efforts during the "last battle of the Civil War" and occurs the weekend following Labor Day. Events include the bank raid re-enactment, rodeo, old-time tractor pull, art festival and more. Hear the St. Olaf Christmas Festival, usually telecast on PBS, in December, when you can also see Northfield by candlelight and bask in the glow of decorated frazier trees at the Northfield Arts Guild Festival of Trees. And if the season is right, don't forget to pick some apples and strawberries in Northfield's beautiful countryside.

Information: 800-658-2548; www.northfieldchamber.com

NORTH PLATTE, NEBRASKA

The American sport of rodeo was born here during the July 4, 1882, Old Glory Blowout thrown by Buffalo Bill Cody, who expanded the event into his famous *Wild West Show and Congress of Rough Riders*. See a miniature of the show at the Fort Cody Trading Post. For today's Wild West Show, attend NEBRASKAland DAYS in June, featuring a PRCA rodeo, live concerts, national art show and parade. Be sure to make yourself at home in Scout's Rest—Buffalo Bill's ranch—where the showman entertained famous figures during his heyday. For train enthusiasts, the only 3900 class Challenger-type steam locomotive on display is at Cody Park, which also has a Depot with telegraph memorabilia and a Wild West memorial to commemorate Cody's Independence Day celebration. Venture into a Western prairie village with a two-story log home and Pony Express station at the Lincoln County Historical Museum. For those with little cowpokes, the North Platte Area Children's Museum offers interactive learning exhibits, such as encasing your child in a giant bubble to explore air and space concepts. Among rolling prairie hills on the banks of nearby Medicine Creek, recapture the Native Americans' closeness to nature at the Dancing Leaf Cultural Learning Center.

Information: 308-532-4966; www.NorthPlatteChamber.com

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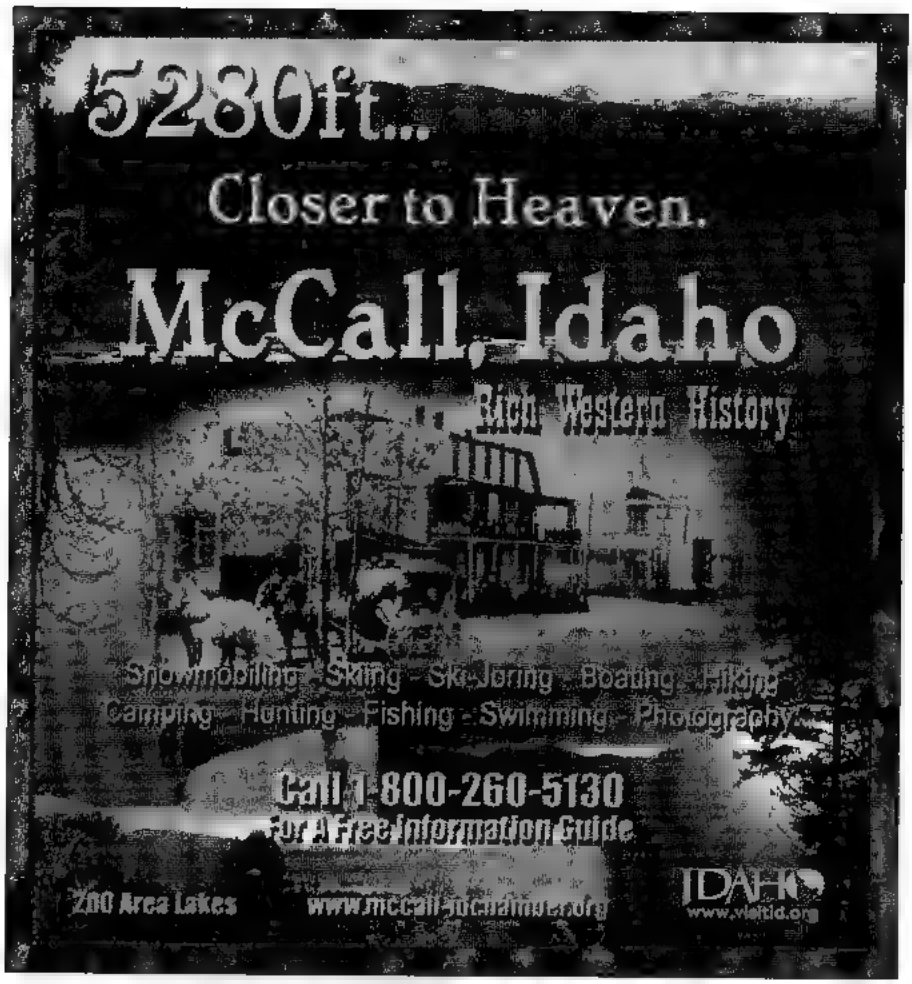

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Pendleton may now have paved streets, but it still remembers its Western roots.

PENDLETON, OREGON

Celebrate the cowboy harvest at America's fastest moving rodeo, the Pendleton Round-up. An ongoing tradition since 1910, the PRCA rodeo also features Indian races, cow milking and many more events, all run with clocklike precision each September. Venture into Deadman Pass or Echo Canyon; see original Oregon Trail ruts or visit Old Town and take the world famous tour of a historical Chinese underground mini-town. Visitors are also welcome at the Pendleton Woolen Mill built in 1909. Relive the memories of the Cayuse, Umatilla and Walla Walla tribes by visiting the nearby Tamastslikt Cultural Institute, which also hosts a gallery, theater and library.

Information: 800-547-8911; www.pendleton-oregon.org

PINEDALE, WYOMING

Mountain men once came to this Green River fur mecca for their rowdy rendezvous. The Green River Rendezvous Pageant is held at Pinedale's rodeo grounds on the second weekend in July, and the Museum of the Mountain Man is open from May 1 to Sept. 30. In nearby Marbleton, read the pioneer names carved in the town's aspen trees, or visit the Green River Valley Museum in Big Piney and learn about local Indian and cowboy history. If you're adventurous, take a walk on the wild side and explore more than 600 miles of trails in the Bridger-Teton National Forest, where some of the West's best backpacking can be found in the Wind River Range. And for a real taste of the Old West, belly up to the bar in Pinedale's Cowboy Saloon.

Information: 307-367-6763; www.pinedaleonline.com; 888-285-7282; www.visitsublettecounty.com

PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

Arizona's first territorial capital, Prescott celebrates its past with Frontier Days, held from the end of June through the 4th of July weekend, featuring a Whiskey Row dance, rodeo parade and rodeo. From June 20 to July 17, the Phippen Museum will exhibit rodeo photos by Louise Serpa. And Arizona's working cowboy will be honored at the annual Cowboy Poets Gathering August 14-16. Whiskey Row—Montezuma Street—is a favorite hangout. In the 1900s, 40 saloons so popularized the avenue that Sheriff Ruffner once said in order "to jail all the drunks in Prescott, you'd have to put a roof over the town." Be sure to stop at the Hotel St. Michael, advertised in 1900 as "Prescott's only fireproof hotel" just before it burned with the rest of Whiskey Row. It was rebuilt with three floors. Hecklers, who'd never seen a three-story building, predicted a downfall that has yet to come.

Information: 800-266-7534; www.prescott.org

Stagecoach ride through Old Sacramento.

– Courtesy Sacramento Convention and Visitor's Bureau

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

Talk about the California gold rush, Pony Express or transcontinental railroad and you'll have to mention Sacramento. Founded in 1839 by Swiss emigrant John Sutter, his Sutter's Fort was a stronghold and commercial center that became a city once gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill in Coloma in 1848. Seven years later, Sacramento beat out Monterey, San Jose, Vallejo and Benicia to become California's capital. Five years after that, the Pony Express began its run between Sacramento and St. Joseph, Missouri, and in 1869, the transcontinental railroad was linked and Sacramento hasn't looked back. Today, there are dozens of museums to see, as well as Old Sacramento, which is steeped in gold rush history. And don't miss the mansions of the "Big Four," who controlled the Central Pacific Railroad.

Information: 916-264-7777; www.discovergold.org

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

There's more to recommend San Antonio than an old Spanish mission officially named the Mission San Antonio de Valero, more commonly called the Alamo. But even if that were all, it would be enough. Just don't be surprised that the Alamo's pretty darn small for the big place it plays in history. This is the birthplace of Texan independence, an exceptionally beautiful city that is proud of its multi-cultural heritage and offers visitors many opportunities to experience the magic of the past amid the thrills of the present. See the world's largest collection of antlers at the Buckhorn Saloon & Museum and fly through the air on a Six Flags ride at Fiesta Texas. Or you can catch the spirit of the city's original Indian and Mexican settlement at La Villita's shops, or wander along the famous River Walk that turned a town eyesore into a trophy.

Information: 800-447-3372; www.sanantonio.com

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

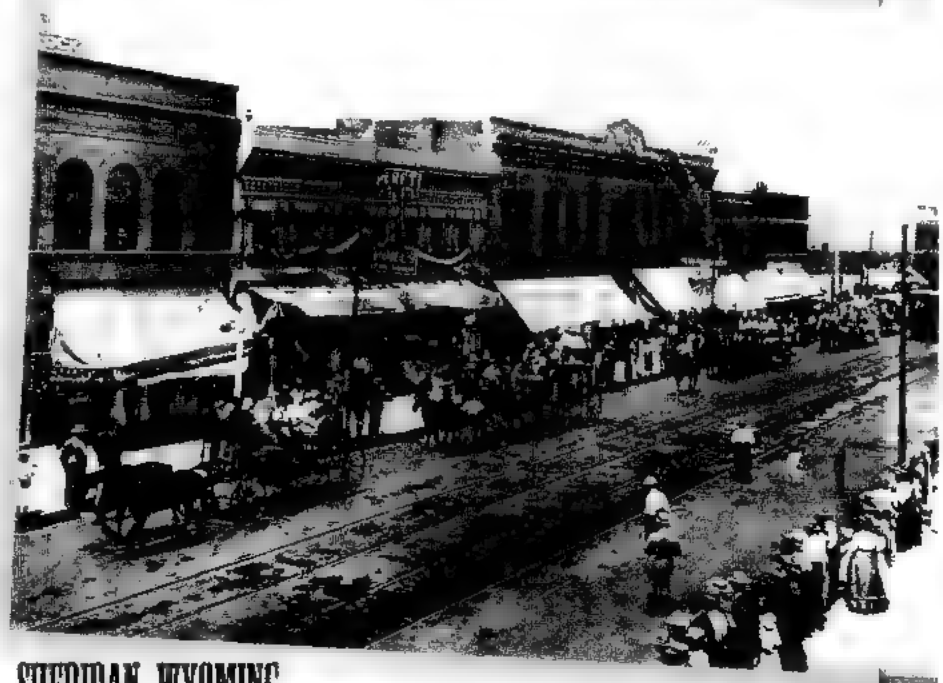
This old Indian pueblo has become one of America's chic getaways, with some of the most exciting dining and shopping experiences you can have and still be sober. Santa Fe is set amid magnificent landscape, which has beckoned artists and writers such as Georgia O'Keeffe and D.H. Lawrence. Today, Mexican and American cultures blend with that of Native Americans, creating a community where diversity rules. When visiting pueblos, please be respectful and remember that dances are religious experiences. The Spanish settled New Mexico in the 1500s and their cultural influence mixes with the later cowboys, cattle barons, pioneers and snake oil salesmen. Enjoy the Indian Market or the world-famous Santa Fe Opera; eat authentic Mexican food; visit the Georgia O'Keeffe museum and stroll down Canyon Road's art galleries. If you can't find joy here, you're one sorry puppy.

Information: 800-777-2489; www.santafe.org

SCOTTSBLUFF/GERING, NEBRASKA

The gateway to the West is located on the prairie of Nebraska, where Scotts Bluff National Monument signaled the entrance into Western lands for those on the Oregon, Mormon or California Trails. In the 1800s, pioneers shopped at competing trading posts near the bluff. You can visit a replica of Robidoux's trading post, which was built with 100-year-old hand hewn timbers and a buffalo grass sod roof. The nearby Agate Fossil Beds National Monument charts history back millions of years and contains the remains of a two-horned rhinoceros. To get the entire flavor of life in the 1800s, visit the North Platte Valley Museum, with its authentic sod house, period furniture, bull boat, schoolroom, a children's "hands on" corner and military exhibits.

Information: 800-788-9475, www.scottsbluffgering.net; www.geringtourism.com



County fair parade on north Main Street in Sheridan, Wyoming, 1912.

SHERIDAN, WYOMING

Chief Red Cloud led Lakota, Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians against the U.S. Army in the 1866 Fetterman fight and the 1867 Wagon Box fight near Fort Phil Kearny. The fort's mission was to protect the Bozeman Trail and prevent Indian inter-tribal warfare. Cheyennes burned the fort when it closed in 1868, but you can still head down to Bozeman Trail Days near the end of June when seminars and living history events occur at the fort replica. Sheridan's history wasn't always so bloody. Buffalo Bill Cody once said of Sheridan, "It would not be a bad place for a man to lose himself." Cody often auditioned acts for his *Wild West Show* from the porch of the Sheridan Inn, which he once co-owned. Many a cowboy rode his horse into the inn's Buffalo Bill Saloon, signaling drinks were on the house because Buffalo Bill had hired him for his show. No cowboys will race for a bride like they could in 1909, but Sheridan's July rodeo does offer Indian relay races, bed races and PRCA events. Every Sunday until fall, watch polo at the Big Horn Equestrian Center. Starting in September, events include the Polo Ranch Cutting Classic, Indian Paintbrush Festival and Don King Days. In nearby Bighorn, art lovers will savor over 600 Western art pieces of the Bradford Brinton collection at Quarter Circle A Ranch, including works by Charles M. Russell, Frederic Remington and Frank Tenney Johnson.

Information: 888-596-6787; www.sheridanwyoming.org

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SILVER CITY, NEW MEXICO

Although three frustrated 49ers took a drink at Bear Creek and struck gold, it was cattle ranching and copper mining that kept this boomtown—also the boyhood home of Billy the Kid—alive, unlike the nearby ghost town of Mogollon, which thrived until the 1940s. Each June, hear the legends of Apache raids, gunslingers and gold miners at the Pinos Altos Art Fair, which features San Vicente artists. Popular May events include the Tour of the Gila five-day bicycle race, annual Silver City Blues Festival and Wild Wild West Pro Rodeo. Walk the Catwalk Trail in Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument to the pithouse ruins left by Pueblo Indians who farmed here nearly 700 years ago. At the end of your day, watch the sun set over the mountains in the three-million-acre Gila National Forest, and see thousands of hummingbirds float over the white blossoms of the Soaptree Yucca cacti, heading toward picturesque Lake Roberts.

Information: 800-548-9378, www.silvercity.org

SILVERTON, COLORADO

You can get to elevated Silverton (9,318 ft.) a whole lot of ways: by narrow gauge steam engine, family car, horseback, mountain bike and of course, Jeep, since this is the "Jeeping Capital of the World." But however you come, you'll find an old mining town with Victorian charm that still celebrates its history, even the unsavory parts. Downtown's infamous Blair Street Bordello District is now a historical area and well worth a visit. So is the Christ of the Mines Shrine, which gives an eagle's-eye view of town. This is a good jumping-off place for exploring the San Juan Skyway, recently named one of only six All-American Roads in the country. The 235-mile loop covers the diverse terrain, ecosystems and geology of Southwest Colorado. Hiking is a major item here, with the Continental Divide Trail just a short distance from town, and of course, the area is filled with mining sites and ghost towns, all waiting to tell their stories.

Silverton, after 1900.

Information: 800-752-4494; www.silverton.org

SITKA, ALASKA

If you combined Native culture, Russian history and an ocean side wilderness, you'd end up with Sitka, a community so old, the entire history of the United States is but a heartbeat in comparison. Accessible only by air or sea, Sitka was first settled by the Kiksadi Clan of the Tlingit Indians, who thrived until 1799 when the Russians arrived. Unwilling to become slaves to these new fur trappers, the Indians attacked the Russian outpost in 1802, killing nearly everyone. Two years later, other Russians drove the natives away and built fortresses. The fur trade flourished and the Russian-American Company became the most profitable fur company in the world. By mid-century, overhunting diminished the number of sea otters. In 1867, Russia sold Alaska to the United States for $7.2 million—a transfer that is commemorated at the Alaska Day Festival each October. All the cultures that made this place special are still here. Activities at this seaport will keep you hopping year-round, with both saltwater and freshwater fishing, and wildlife so plentiful there's a calendar to tell you the best time to see humpback whales or Great Blue Herons or bears. And when things get too hectic, rent a floathouse to get away from it all.

Sitka's Greek Church on Indian Avenue, c. 1940.

Information: 907-747-5940; www.sitka.org

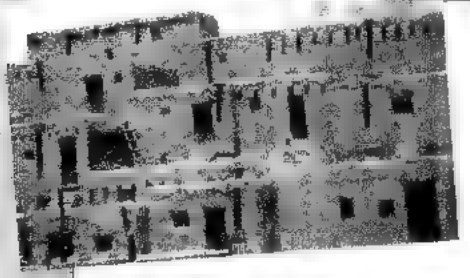
STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO

Listen to the intermittent puffing sound of water falling in the 150-plus mineral springs and you'll understand why fur trappers were reminded of steamboats. Relish the wonders of the springs: the muds of the Narcissus and Terrace Springs soothe skin disorders; the Utes thought the odiferous sulfur gas from Sulphur Spring had curative powers. The Utes also camped at Heart Spring, which is now the home of the Steamboat Springs Health and Recreation Center, offering visitors waterslides and warm baths. Numerous campgrounds are close to these restorative springs and to hiking trails, such as Rabbit Ears Peak and El Run Trail. Head downtown after your water adventures to enjoy cuisine fit for a gourmet, indoor rock climbing and art gallery tours. If more adventure is what you seek, toast the skies above the Yampa Valley in a hot air balloon.

Moffat Road in Steamboat Springs, 1890.

– Courtesy Denver Public Library Western Collection –

Information: 970-879-0882; www.steamboat-chamber.com



Taos pueblo.

BY KAREN A. ROBERTSON

TAOS, NEW MEXICO

Hernando de Alvarado led conquistadors here during their search for the seven cities of gold. Kit Carson made Taos his home, and New Mexico's first territorial governor, Charles Bent, was killed in his Taos house by Mexican loyalists. Native Americans have inhabited the multi-storied Taos Pueblo for over 1,000 years. Get the most bang for your buck at the town's seven historical museums—exhibits range from artwork to mountain men relics to colonial Spanish haciendas—by buying a year-round combination ticket for $20. Art aficionados should visit Abiquiu, home of artist Georgia O'Keeffe.

Information: 800-816-1516; TaosVacationGuide.com

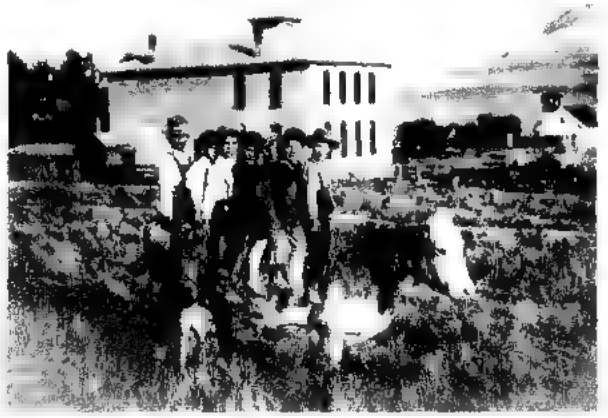
TOMBSTONE, ARIZONA

"The Town Too Tough to Die" has lived through the boom and bust of silver mining, a flurry of guns and lawlessness and Big Nose Kate, so we're convinced it'll survive its geegaw stage, too. Tombstone may now be the Western kitsch capital of the country—numerous stores sell just about every Western knickknack made—but the town's colorful history can't be denied and its lure can't be ignored. Now a registered national historic landmark, it celebrates its past daily in the mild climate of South-central Arizona (less than 3 hours from Phoenix, just an hour from Tucson) and lets you step back into the 1800s with Wild West shows, melodramas, gunfights, an Old West museum and bookstore, and of course, saloons with stage girls and cowboys. May includes Wyatt Earp Days, while July features a Western Film Festival; August is known for Vigilante Days and October for Helldorado Days. And don't miss Boot Hill.

Information: 888-457-3929; www.tombstone.org

Looking across Fifth Street at the corner of Fifth and Allen in downtown Tombstone, c. 1881.

– COURTESY CRAIG FOUTS –



A cow carries seven boys on her back in front of a Washington schoolhouse, in 1907.

TOPPENISH, WASHINGTON

Located in the midst of the Yakama Indian Nation, Toppenish is a town "Where the West Still Lives." Its Western buildings are adorned with 62 historical murals by renowned Northwest artists, which earned the town a national honor as one of America's Prettiest Painted Places. Narrated tours of the murals are available in horse or mule-drawn wagons (which also go by the American Hop and the Rail and Steam Museums). Since 1933, Toppenish has thrown a huge four-day 4th of July rodeo party, complete with professional riders, barn dance, powwow, Indian village, pioneer fair, parade and *Sierra Nevada Guns for Hire Wild West Show*. While in town, don't miss the Yakama Indian Nation Cultural Center and Museum.

Information: 509-865-3262; www.toppenish.org

VIRGINIA CITY, NEVADA

Little has changed in Virginia City since its boomtown days, which Mark Twain wrote about during his first stint as a news writer for the *Territorial Enterprise* and in his 1864 novel, *Roughing It*. For miners' lore, Comstock artifacts and rare lithographs, photos and maps of Virginia City during its heyday, visit the Way It Was Museum. Another worthy stop is the King of the Comstock's home, the Mackay Mansion Museum, with its original 1860s furnishings. While on B Street, visit Piper's Opera House, where famous Europeans and Americans have performed, and then drive around to view Victorian homes and mansions, like the Castle, which you can tour during the summer to see its Italian marble, Czechoslovakian rock crystal and Italian hanging staircase. May could be called Mark Twain month because of Virginia City's 10-day celebration of the author. Comstock Historic Preservation Weekend also occurs during May. For cowboy action, head to the Virginia City Rodeo, held in July.

Information: 775-847-0311; www.virginiacity-nv.org

Wichita's Douglas Avenue had mud streets and wooden plank sidewalks, c. 1870.

WICHITA, KANSAS

If it weren't for Joseph Geiting McCoy developing a railhead in Kansas and the state repealing the anti-Texas cattle law for Western Kansas, cow towns such as Wichita would not have existed. Many of the cowboys who drove Texas longhorns to Kansas were African Americans, and you can learn about the heritage of these early Wichitans at the Kansas African American Museum. You can also see how Wichita looked during its heyday at the Old Cowtown Museum with its frontier town of over 30 buildings, including a working blacksmith shop. Also relax to the soothing sounds of the Wichita Symphony Orchestra at the Wichita River Festival, a 10-day event in May that brings together 250,000 people.

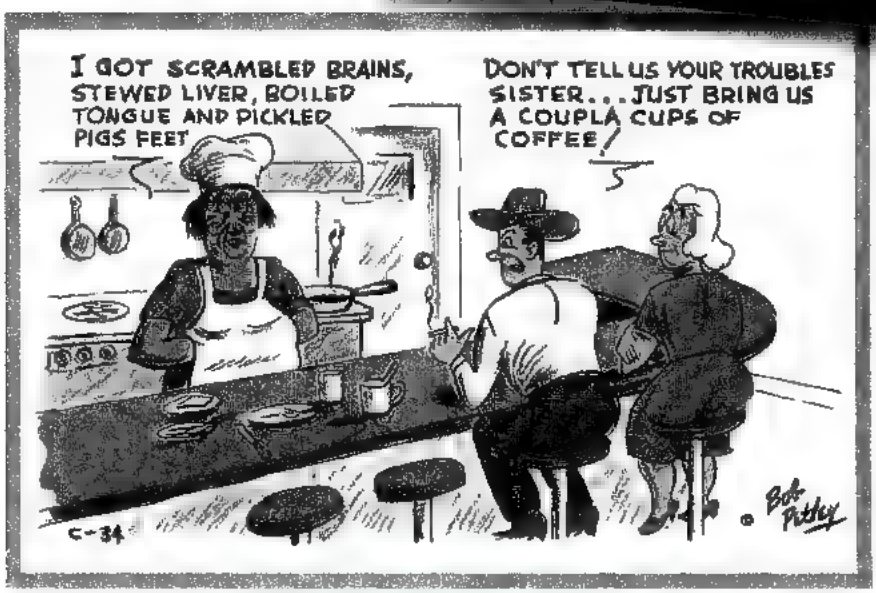
Information: 800-288-9424; www.visitwichita.com

—Reported by Jana Bommersbach, Meghan Saar, R.G. Robertson and Bob Boze Bell.

WICKENBURG, ARIZONA

Wealth from the Vulture Mine was so exaggerated that it was customary to call a teller of tall tales a hassayamper, coined from the Hassayampa River where the tall tales tradition continues in the posting of a No Fishing From Bridge sign over this dry river. It's no tall tale however, that Wickenburg's guest ranches make it Arizona's "Dude Ranch Capital." Western hospitality is sure to charm the chaps off you and make you kick up your heels at these annual events. February's Gold Rush Days are one of the top 100 Living Legacies named by the Library of Congress. The Fiesta Septiembre celebrates the town's Hispanic heritage and while there, you should stroll through Wickenburg's walking tour to see Hispanic pioneer homes. For music lovers, there's the Bluegrass Festival in November, whereas poetry lovers will enjoy the Cowboy Poetry Gathering in December. Whatever you do, be sure to visit the Desert Caballeros Western Museum for its cowboy gear, Western art and other exhibits.

Information: 928-684-5479; www.outwickenburgway.com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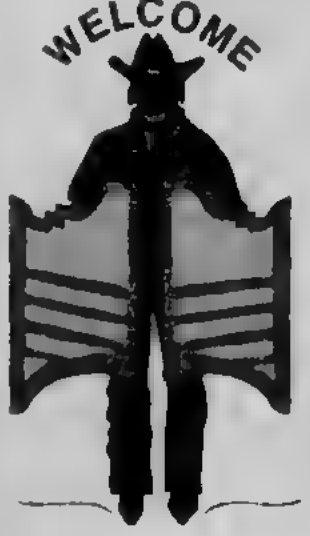

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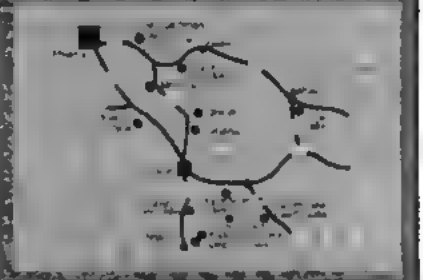

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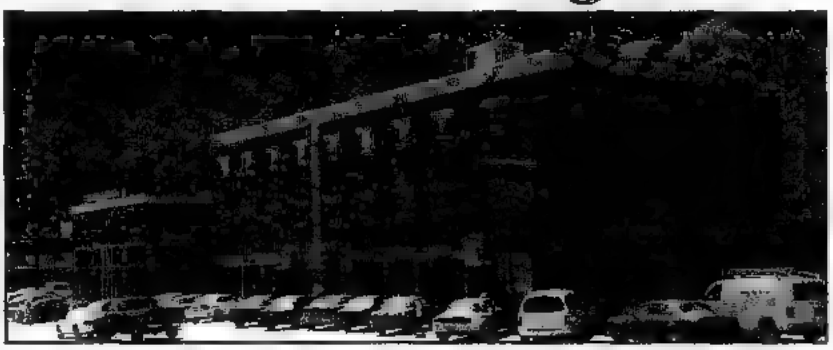

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Images courtesy of Gil Kenny

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BY JOHNNY D. BOGGS

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The Beatles and Buffalo Bill slept here.

– Courtesy Johnny D. Boggs –

10. St. James Hotel (Cimarron, NM): Frenchman Henri Lambert, ex-cook for Abe Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant, opened the St. James as a saloon in 1872. Expanded to a hotel in 1880, the St. James began drawing noted Westerners, including Bat Masterson and Annie Oakley, and legend has it that 26 folks died violently here. It's friendlier now, with 14 restored rooms in the original hotel and 10 motel-style rooms in a 1960s annex. *(Route 1, Box 2, 87714; 505-376-2664)*

9. Golden North Hotel (Skagway, AK): Originally two stories, this domed building went up in 1898 during the Klondike gold rush and later served as an army barracks. In 1908, it was moved to Third and Broadway, a third floor was added and it reopened as a hotel. These days, period antiques fill the 31 rooms, each named after a historical family, in Alaska's oldest operating hotel. *(3rd and Broadway, P.O. Box 343, 99840; 907-983-2451)*

8. Eldridge Hotel (Lawrence, KS): Here's proof you can't keep a good hotel down. Destroyed by pro-slavery forces in 1856 and again by Quantrill's raiders in 1863, the Eldridge kept being rebuilt. The brick beauty came about in 1924, serving as John Wayne's base when *Dark Command* made its world premiere in 1940. Reopened in 1986 after being shuttered for 16 years, the renovated Eldridge features 48 roomy suites. *(701 Massachusetts St., 66044; 800-527-0909, www.EldridgeHotel.com)*

7. Gold Hill Hotel (Virginia City, NV): Folks knew this circa-1859 establishment as the Riesen House during the Comstock Lode days, the Vesey Hotel after H.M. Vesey bought it in the early 1860s, and the Gold Hill Hotel and Bar in the 1950s. Since 1986, the Gold Hill Hotel has sponsored a Tuesday night lecture series in its Great Room. Speakers discuss area history, mining and other Old West subjects. *(1 mile south of Virginia City on Hwy 342, P.O. Box 740, 89440; 775-847-0111; www.goldhillhotel.net)*

6. Bullock Hotel (Deadwood, SD): After losing his hardware store in a fire, Seth Bullock decided in 1895 to build a grand hotel, complete with Turkish bath and reading parlor. Today, the Bullock has been restored to its Victorian grandeur, with 63 rooms, theater, restaurant and, this being Deadwood, casino. *(633 Main St., 57732; 800-336-1876; www.heartofdeadwood.com/Bullock/)*

5. Murphys Historic Hotel (Murphys, CA): The "commodius [sic] fireproof building" opened in this gold rush town in 1856, only it wasn't as fireproof as thought, and burned three years later but was quickly rebuilt. Remodeled in 1980, the hotel features a 19th-century saloon and 29 rooms, nine of which are named after guests such as Sam Clemens and Susan B. Anthony. *(457 Main St., 95247; 800-532-7684; www.murphyshotel.com)*

4. Hassayampa Inn (Prescott, AZ): El Paso architect Henry Trost created some of the Southwest's greatest hotels, including Texas legends Gage (Marathon) and Paisano (Marfa). This 1927 gem, the Grande Dame of Northern Arizona, features hand-painted ceiling beams and stained glass windows, and offers unexpected luxury in the middle of a frontier town. *(122 E. Gurley St., 86301; 800-322-1927; www.hassayampainn.com)*

3. The Brown Palace Hotel (Denver, CO): Buffalo Bill hung out in the lobby, regaling anyone who would listen to his stories. A vision of entrepreneur Henry Brown, the hotel opened in 1892, and hasn't closed its doors once, remaining elegant but comfortable. Guests have included Monty Montana, the Beatles and in the 1890s, Lizzie, the hotel's cat. *(321 17th St., 80202; 800-321-2599; www.brownpalace.com)*

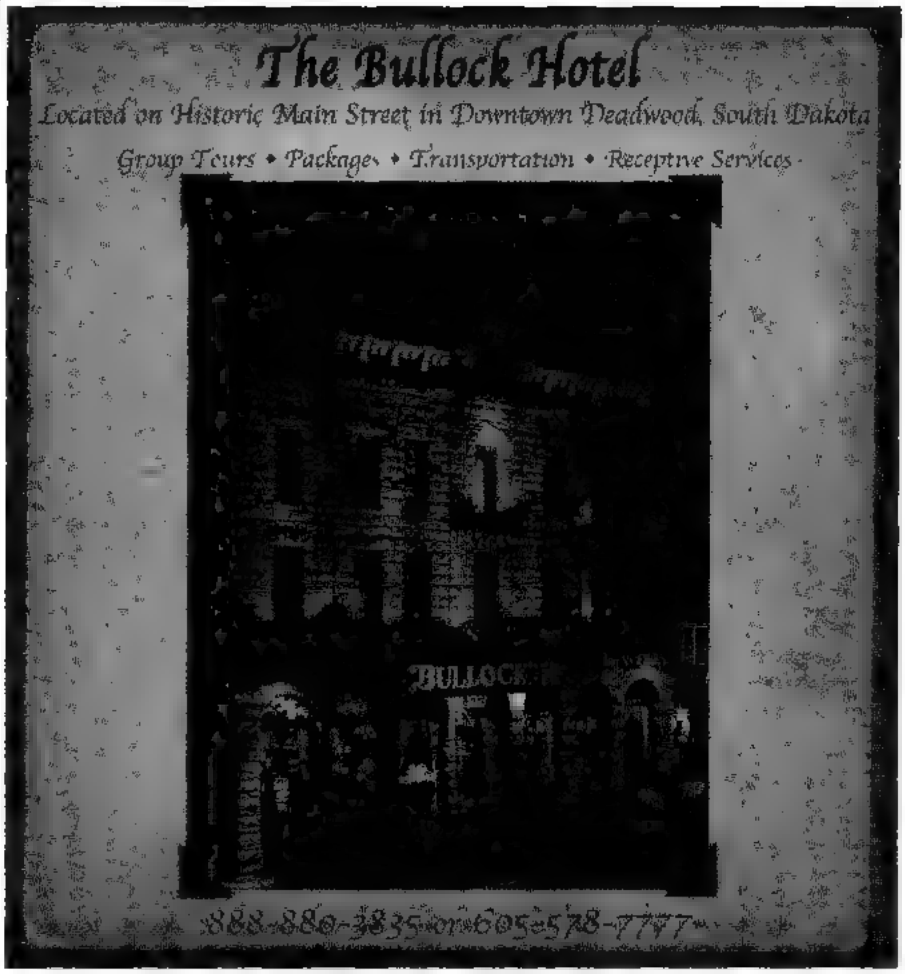
2. Driskill Hotel (Austin, TX): This four-story hotel opened in 1886, the dream of cattle baron Jesse Lincoln Driskill, who wanted to build the premier hotel for Texas' political, social and business leaders. It went through several owners and ups and downs, but is now a member of the elite Leading Hotels of the World, with 205 exquisite guest rooms and suites. *(604 Brazos St., 78701; 800-252-9367; www.driskillhotel.com)*

1. The Irma Hotel (Cody, WY): Buffalo Bill had "the swellest hotel that ever was" built in 1902 (additions came in 1929 and 1976-77). Cody maintained an office and suites here, and likely spent time beside the original cherry bar. The renovated rooms, bar and lounge would make the great showman proud. *(1192 Sheridan Ave., 82414; 800-745-4762; www.irmahotel.com)*

Honorable Mentions

Hotel Ambassador (Tulsa, OK); Commercial Hotel (Verdigre, NE); Crescent Hotel (Eureka Springs, AR); Franklin Hotel (Deadwood, SD); Copper Queen (Bisbee, AZ); Pollard Hotel (Red Lodge, MT); Hotel St. Francis (Santa Fe, NM); Strater Hotel (Durango, CO); Stockyards Hotel (Fort Worth, TX); Virginian Hotel (Medicine Bow, WY).

Johnny D. Boggs has been known to rough it in tents, but won't turn down a comfortable bed in a posh Western hotel.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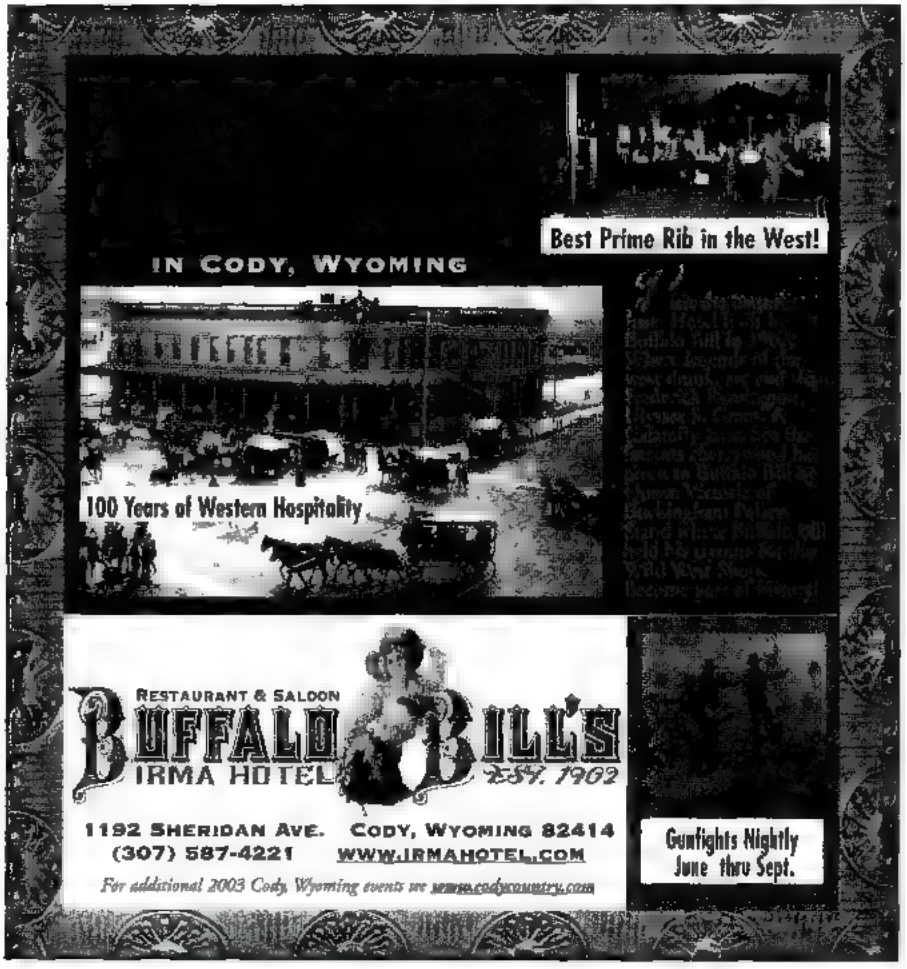

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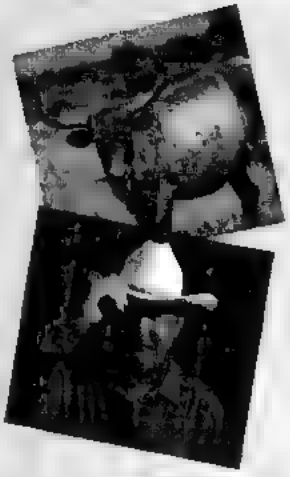

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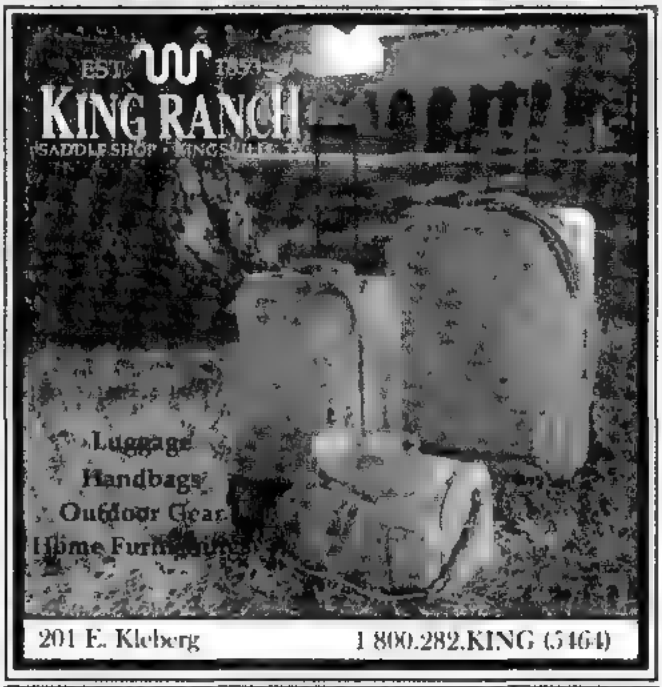

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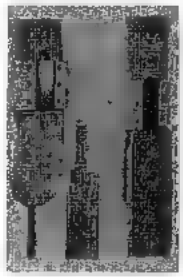

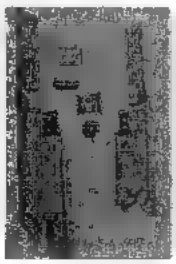

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BY DEBORAH S. SUSSER

How to get Kids Interested in History

These mothers know.

How do you get children or grandchildren interested in the American West? Mothers from the Mothers Write workshop in Scottsdale, Arizona, offered advice on planning road trips that will help your children appreciate the West and its fabled history.

Before you hit the road, prepare your young cowpokes for their Western experience.

Gina Horne Birnbaum suggests that while you pack, your children should watch Western oriented movies. She recommends Elmo's *Wild, Wild West,* which toddlers are particularly fond of, or renting other Westerns from your local video store.

Reading about the West is another must, says Linda Levitt, a mother/teacher. She often kick-starts her students' interest by donning Western wear when she reads to them. Diane Owens, another mother/teacher, suggests drawing the main character of a book you're reading with your children, or getting together with them to research the book's themes on the Internet.

For the actual road trip, Owens recommends making each child a scavenger-hunt folder, gearing the complexity of information to the child's age. For example, "one page might ask the child to draw the shape of the 800-foot high twin spires called Spider Rock [in Arizona's Canyon de Chelly]. Another page might ask him or her to, 'Name or draw a Navajo crop you see growing in the canyon.'" When Owens took her four daughters to Canyon de Chelly, they listened carefully to the Navajo guide because they were so focused on gathering the scavenger information.

Journeying the West with your kids.

For road trips with young out-of-town guests, Levitt's "guide" book recommendation is *Gila Monsters Meet You at the Airport* by Marjorie Sharmat, which "portrays a young boy moving from New York to Arizona. . . . in his fantasies, he worries that nobody in the West plays baseball because they're too busy chasing buffaloes."

Tombstone is a favorite destination for Gina Horne Birnbaum to take her young visitors. "As our horse-drawn carriage ambled down the streets, we passed by buildings that stood as they did over 100 years ago. . . . When our driver pointed out the residences of Doc Holliday and Wyatt Earp, our 10-year-old exclaimed, 'Wait. You mean this is the actual house he lived in? The guy from the O.K. Corral? He actually walked here?' No history book could ever hope for that reaction."

These young cowhands got a hold of Audie Murphy's six-shooters while he was playing Billy the Kid in* The Kid from Texas. *Tough hombre William Talman (left) is also at the mercy of the gun-wielding tourists.

– Courtesy Universal Pictures –

For nature trips, Levitt recommends reading *The Three Little Javelinas* by Susan Lowell, "an amusing take-off of *The Three Little Pigs*, with wildlife and flora of the Southwest."

Alexandra Ellison took her boys to the dinosaur excavation exhibit at Arizona Sonora Desert Museum (outside Tucson). Her boys "were wide-eyed, trying to follow a pair of Harris hawks swooping through the desert skies. These birds rose on powerful wings, gracefully rode the high breezes, and dropped at incredible speed to catch their prey. The boys could imagine how the first settlers must have felt and how they fell in love with the West's great open spaces."

Birnbaum recalls her son also had an eye-opening experience on their trip to the Grand Canyon. "When told that the tiny ribbon of water flowing through the rocks a mile below is what scraped and eroded these rocks to this depth, our 9-year-old was skeptical. And yet, here it was in front of his eyes; he couldn't deny it. While we were there, snow fell and giant crows waddled on the icy paths. Our children discovered a whole other Arizona."

Now that you know how to prepare for a fun-filled, yet educational, road trip, get out there and share your Wild West experience with your children.

Deborah S. Susser co-teaches the Mothers Write workshop at Scottsdale Center for the Arts with Amy Silverman. For information, e-mail dhss@earthlink.net or call 480-829-7352.

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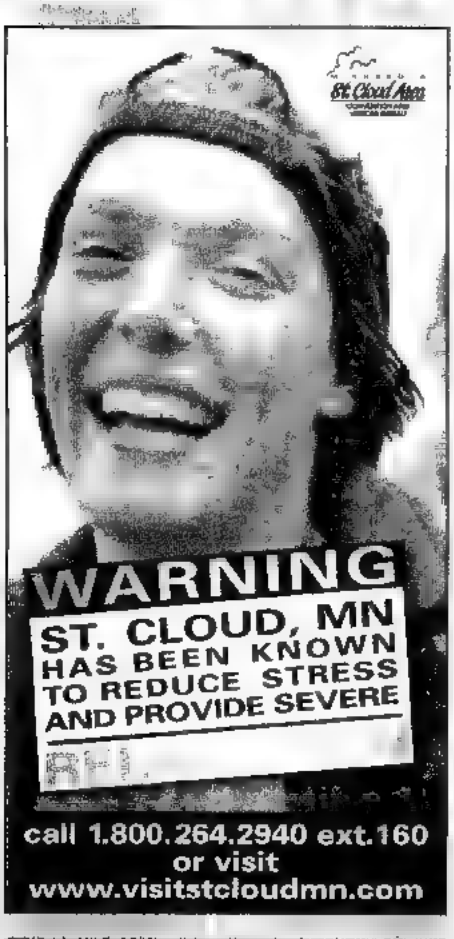

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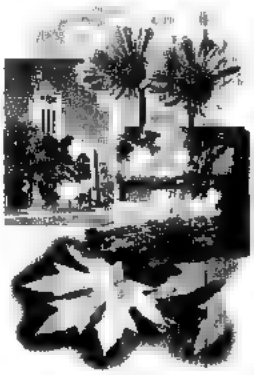

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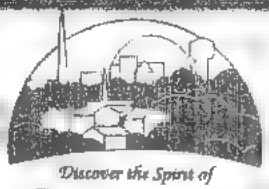

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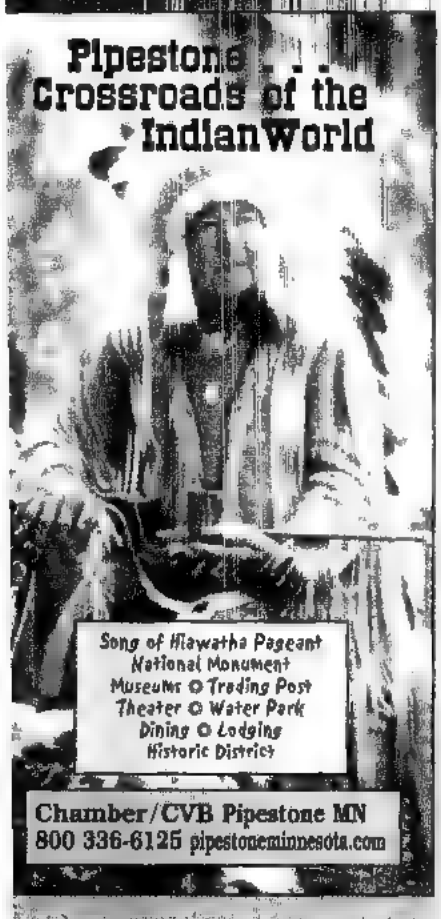
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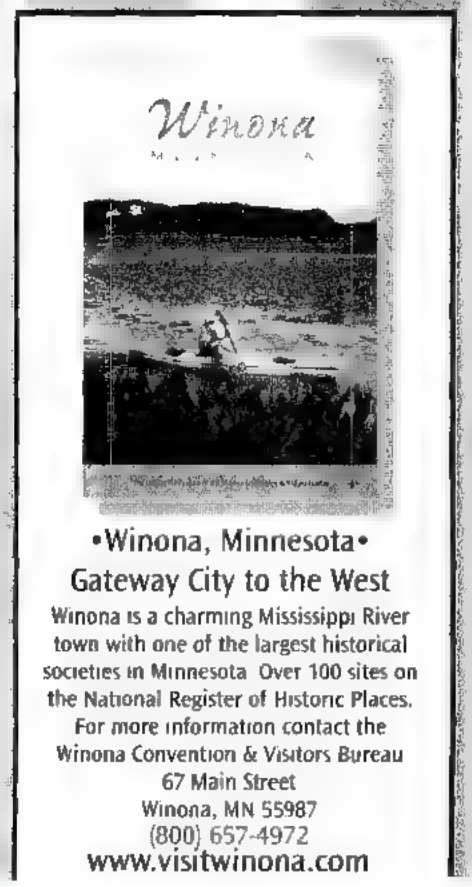
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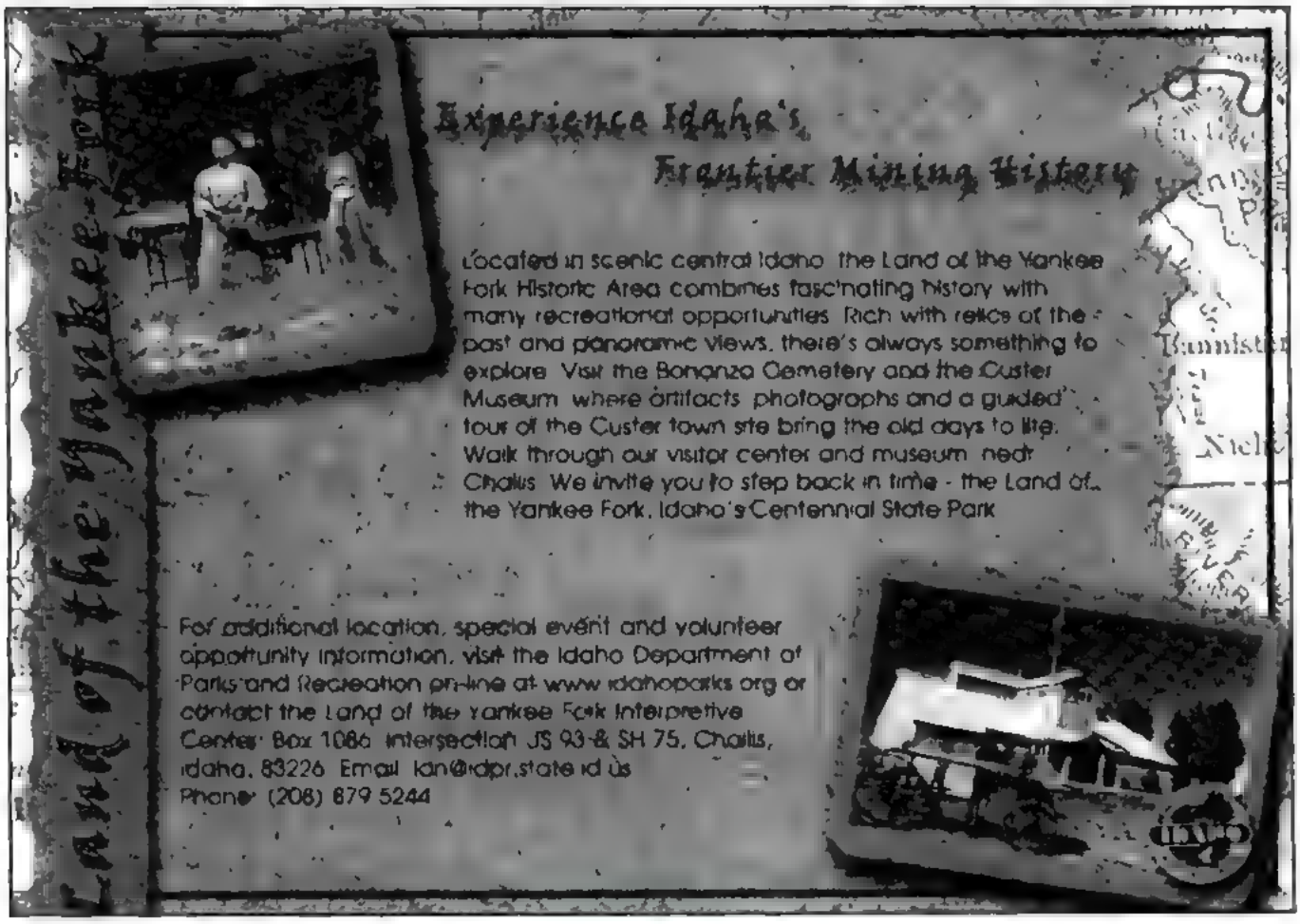
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BY [illegible] SAAL

Jackalope Creator Dies

Is it a tacky tourist novelty or is there a scientific basis to the legend?

Douglas Herrick made the jackalope—half bunny, half antelope—a tourist attraction in his hometown of Douglas, Wyoming, when he mounted the first jackalope after a hunting trip. According to the *New York Times*, Herrick was born July 8, 1920. He went on to be a tail gunner on a B-17 in WW II and then worked in construction and at an Amoco refinery. Herrick died on January 6 in Casper, Wyoming, at the age of 82.

When Douglas, Wyoming, was declared the official home of the jackalope, the animal was seen to be a fake tourist gimmick. Yet, there may be a scientific reason behind the jackalope sightings. Read on to learn more about the jackalope and the possible truth behind its existence.

SCIENTIFIC EXPLANATION

Papillomavirus causes hornlike growths on rabbits' heads, which at a distance, makes them appear to have horns. The virus is the same sort of pathogen that causes warts on humans. The disease occurs naturally in cottontail rabbits in the Midwest and Great Plains. Jackrabbits are also susceptible. Horns can be found on numerous spots including the head, neck, chin or rear.

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—BUDDHA
SHURANGAMA SUTRA, VOL 1. PART 2.

La Bonte Hotel.

TRACKING THE JACKALOPE

Late 1570s
Painting by Joris Hoefnagel contains horned rabbits.

1667
P. Gaspar Schott's *Physica Curiosa* is published and features horned rabbits.

Late 1920s
Douglas Herrick's grandfather sees a mounted jackalope in Buffalo, Wyoming, and tells Douglas about its legend.

1932
After a hunting trip, Herrick cuts the ends off deer antlers and screws them into a jackrabbit's head.

1941
Roy Ball, manager of La Bonte Hotel, in Douglas, Wyoming, buys the first mounted jackalope from Herrick for $10 and displays it in his hotel.

Late 1940s
J.S. Ward, secretary of the Douglas Chamber of Commerce, promotes the jackalope. Local butchers issue jackalope hunting licenses for $1.

April 5, 1960
Douglas mints the Jackalope Buck. (50¢ pieces)

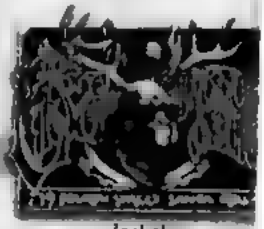
1965
Douglas commissions an 8-foot jackalope statue for the town center from artist Leonard Lore.

Jackalope Buck.

May 19, 1984
Douglas jackalope statue is destroyed; town requests a larger one from Lore.

May 15, 1985
Wyoming's Governor Ed Herschler proclaims Douglas the official Home of the Jackalope.

May 18, 1985
Lore's new statue is unveiled on Jackalope Day.



Jackalope Records logo.

1990s
University of Kansas Museum of Natural History takes its "real" jackalopes on the road. Jackalope Junction is set up on the Internet to sell jackalopes worldwide.

1996
Jackalope Records (Sonoma, CA) opens before CD craze. Records are now as rare as the jackalope.

Jan. 6, 2003
Douglas Herrick dies.

Jan. 7, 2003
Jackalopes continue to breed.

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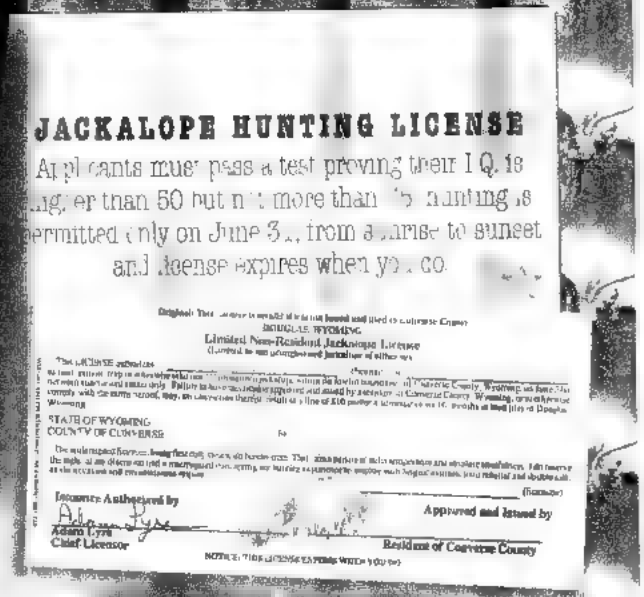
REAGAN'S JACKALOPE

Jackalope manufacturer, Rusty's Taxidermy, gave mounted jackalopes to President Ronald Reagan and comedians Bob Hope and Red Skelton. Reagan hung his over the bar at Rancho del Cielo, often called the Western White House.



JACKALOPE HUNTING LICENSE

Applicants must pass a test proving their I.Q. is higher than 50 but not more than 70. Hunting is permitted only on June 32, from sunrise to sunset and license expires when you do.

Original: This license is invalid if it is not bound and filed in Converse County

[illegible] WYOMING

Limited Non-Resident Jackalope License

Classified as non-plumaged and juvenile of either sex

This LICENSE authorizes [illegible] (Grantee) to hunt, pursue, trap or attempt to take [illegible] within the lawful boundaries of Converse County, Wyoming, on June 32, but not with rifles or automatic rifles only. Failure to have this license properly signed and sealed by a resident of Converse County, Wyoming, or otherwise comply with the terms hereof, may, on conviction thereof, result in a fine of $10 and/or a term of 10 to 10 months in the [illegible] of Wyoming.

STATE OF WYOMING
COUNTY OF CONVERSE ss

The undersigned farmers, being first duly sworn, on their oaths state: That [illegible] pictured in this application are absolute misfortunes. I do reserve all the rights of any decent and [illegible] citizen, especially my natural and unalienable right to [illegible] as the occasion will [illegible].

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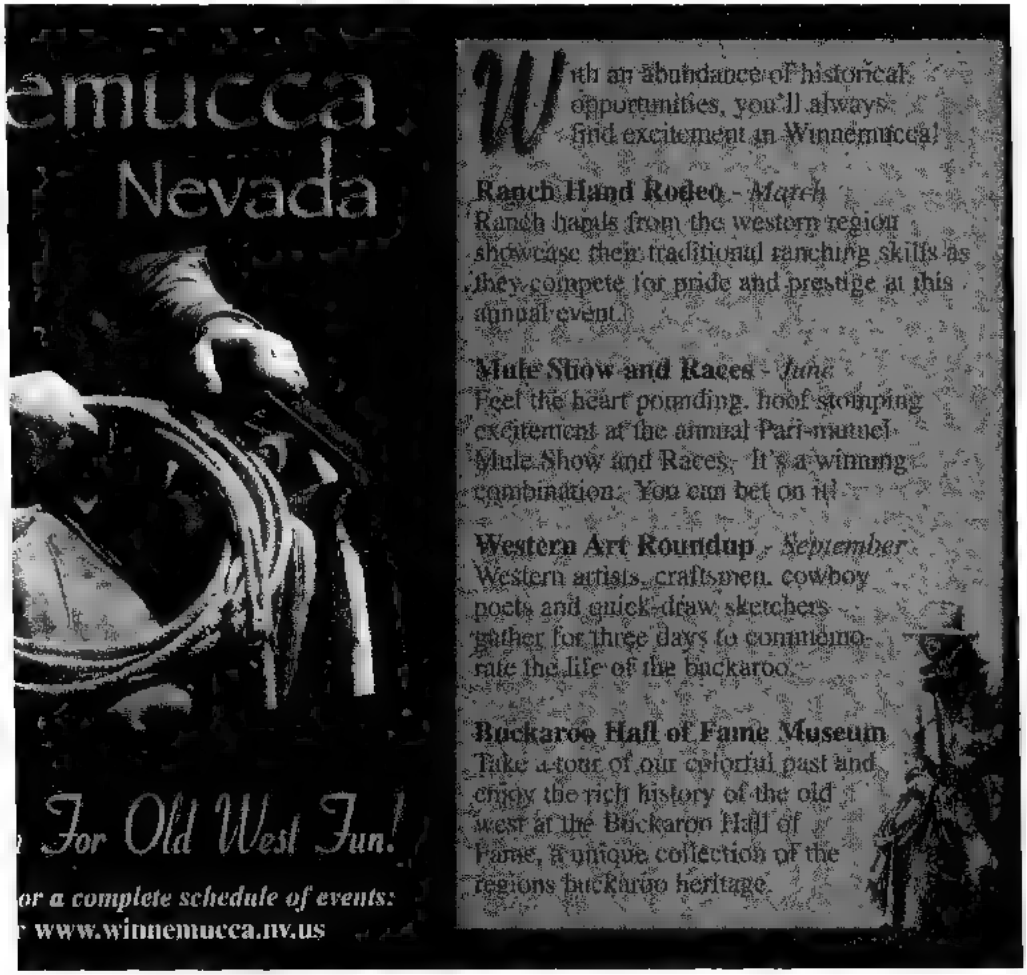
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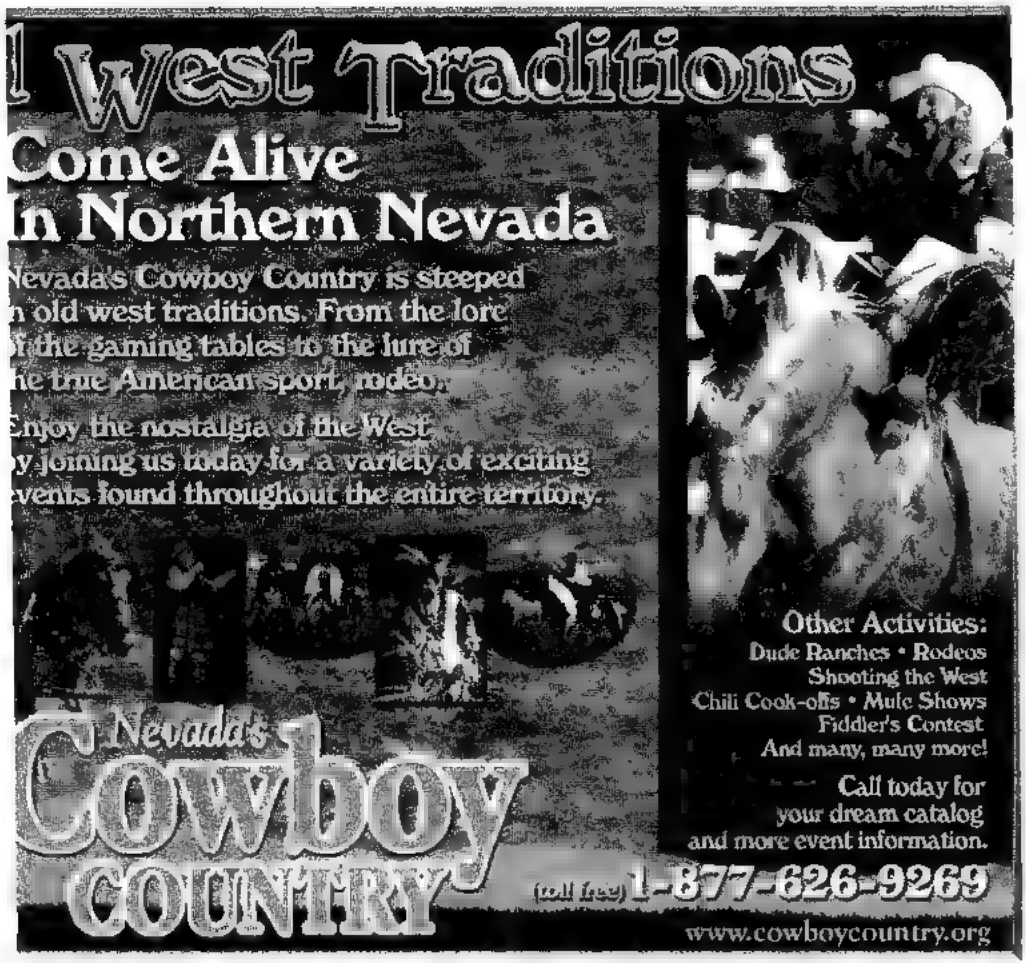

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BY DOWNS MATTHEWS

Dead in the Water

Or so they thought

William Rogers oozes blood into the Arroyo Colorado River as he watches his friends and family float by.

– BBB ILLUSTRATION –

Late in the afternoon of May 1, 1846, a band of heavily armed Mexican bandits herded 22 American men, women and children to the edge of a steep bank overlooking the Arroyo Colorado River in South Texas. The Americans were curtly ordered to strip.

Two leaders of the American party, brothers Anderson and William Rogers, knew what the order meant: the Mexicans intended to kill them and did not want their valuable clothing stained with blood.

The brothers pleaded with the bandit chief, Juan Antonio Baillie, to spare the women and children, but he ignored them and repeated his order, then had his men bind the hands of his naked captives.

Abruptly, Baillie knocked Anderson Rogers to his knees. Drawing a knife, the bandit seized the man by his hair and slit his throat from ear to ear. Baillie methodically moved to the next man as other Mexicans cut the throats of the women and children.

A stunned William Rogers saw his executioner approach, felt fingers grab his hair and wrench back his head. Rogers felt searing pain as the knife ripped his throat before he fell forward and lost consciousness.

Baillie ordered the 22 bodies untied and thrown in the river. But not all the Americans were dead. When William Rogers hit the cold water, the shock revived him. Unbelievably, he still lived. The blade had sliced through his windpipe, but had not severed the vital carotid artery or jugular vein.

Directly above him, Mexicans were throwing more bodies over the steep bank. Rogers looked for a place to hide. He found a hole in the side of the clay bank—a washout scoured by tidal currents—and clung there, trembling, as his dead companions dropped into the water beside him and floated downstream.

He was the only survivor. And his party had been such easy pickings.

The Americans had left Corpus Christi five days earlier, on April 25. Twenty-five-year-old William Rogers and his brother were sutlers who supplied necessities to army troops. Their wagon train was loaded with food, clothing and utensils that were eagerly awaited by the soldiers. The group had expected no trouble on its trail through the South Texas wilderness and so was poorly armed. On May 1, they had reached the Arroyo Colorado River and forded it at a spot near present-day Harlingen. Forty miles south lay the safety of Fort Brown, where Brownsville is now situated. They walked only four more miles before Baillie and his bandits ambushed them.

Outmanned, outgunned and encumbered with

noncombatants (including three women and four children), the men knew their situation was hopeless. When Baillie promised decent treatment in return for their surrender, they accepted. Baillie turned the wagons back to the river, explaining he wanted to camp there for the night. Instead, that is where he stripped and murdered his victims.

All but one.

Rogers cowered along the riverbank, clutching the gaping gash in his throat and trembling from shock and loss of blood. Above him, the killers noisily loaded the wagons and left shortly after dark, going south toward the Rio Grande.

When he was sure they were gone, Rogers crawled up the riverbank and searched for clothing, food or something he could fashion as a weapon. But the bandits had been thorough. They had left nothing.

Rogers considered his choices and none looked good.

He couldn't go back to Corpus Christi, because it was 200 miles to the northeast. He couldn't go south because that's where the bandits had gone. If they caught him again, they wouldn't fail a second time in killing him. The closest American settlement was Fort Brown, where General Zachary Taylor's "Army of Anticipation" was waiting. But Rogers feared risking capture on the main road, so he struck out across the trackless brush country.

The brush country was a tangle of head-high prickly pear cactus, thorny mesquite, saw grass and greasewood—a haven for rattlesnakes, a hunting ground for cougars and wolves and a barrier to travelers for centuries. Rogers now plunged into it, protected by nothing but his fierce will to live.

Walking slowly in the darkness, he used a mesquite branch as a staff. He pushed it in front of him to part the skin-shredding greasewood and to hold aside the waving fronds of cat-clawed ocotillo. But despite his care, his feet and legs were soon stabbed raw.

As a further torment, clouds of mosquitoes swarmed on his unprotected hide. He beat at them until he was exhausted and his skin was on fire.

Near midnight, he came upon a pond filled by spring rains. To escape the mosquitoes, he threw himself into the water and lay submerged, except for his gashed windpipe. Night travel, he decided, was too difficult. He stayed in the pond until dawn, when the mosquitoes disappeared.

At the break of day, Rogers crawled out and found a mudhole. He wallowed in it, plastering himself with mud. He also piled mud on top of his head to serve as a hat. It worked until the mud dried and flaked away. Soon, Rogers' fair skin reddened. His back and neck burned first, then the rest of his body. His skin turned black, cracked, oozed and burned again.

Blowflies, attracted by the blood oozing from his cut throat, buzzed about his head. Unable to beat them off, he took clay from a creek bank and packed it into the wound. This kept out most of the flies, but some managed to lay their eggs in his flesh. Soon maggots were squirming in the wound, eating the decaying flesh at its raw edges.

On the morning of the second day, May 3, Rogers found himself staggering across a featureless plain of knee-high grass. The absence of landmarks worried him, but then he heard a distant rumbling. He recognized the sound as cannon fire from Fort Brown. The Mexican War had begun.

With the gunfire to guide him, Rogers pushed on, struggling through the hostile terrain. Hunger plagued him, but he soon found blackberries abundantly growing in the damp soil beside creek banks. When he tried to eat them, the juice and chewed berries dribbled from the hole in his throat. He solved his problem by lying on his back so that the food passed down the back of his throat and entered his stomach. The same technique worked for swallowing water.

All day May 4, Rogers plodded doggedly south on torn, bleeding feet. The gunfire from Fort Brown grew steadily louder. By the end of the day, he had drawn close enough to distinguish the individual reports of the guns.

The next morning, he barely got to his feet. Still he drove himself forward. By noon, he was crawling on his hands and knees.

Less than a mile from Fort Brown, Rogers crept into a Mexican peasant's brush hut and collapsed. For a week, the *paisano* cleaned Rogers' wounds, bandaged his throat, nursed him and then turned him over to the Mexican authorities in Matamoros, across the river. Rogers was clapped into jail, but was later released in a prisoner exchange with the U. S. Army at Fort Brown.

When Rogers was well enough to travel, the army sent a boat to Port Isabel to fetch him back to Corpus Christi. He settled there, married a young widow and fathered eight children. Many of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren still live in South Texas. He devoted his life to ranching, real estate and merchandising. He was a member of the Texas Legislature, vice president of the Corpus Christi, San Diego and Rio Grande Railroad and a member of Pioneer Fire Company Number 1. He always wore a goatee to hide the terrible scar on his throat.

Rogers never forgot nor forgave the bandits who had injured him so cruelly. He made inquiries and learned the name of the bandit leader. He habitually rode the ferry across the Rio Grande between Brownsville and the Mexican town of Matamoros in order to look among the passengers for Baillie. The story goes that Rogers spotted Baillie one night and lured him to the stern of the ferry, before cutting Baillie's throat and pushing his body overboard. Rogers neither confirmed nor denied it.

In 1877, lung and throat complications arising from his wound led to Rogers' death.

He is buried in Corpus Christi.

Downs Matthews is a fourth-generation Texan, residing in Houston, who has written 11 books. His interest in South Texas family land holdings led him to William Rogers' saga.

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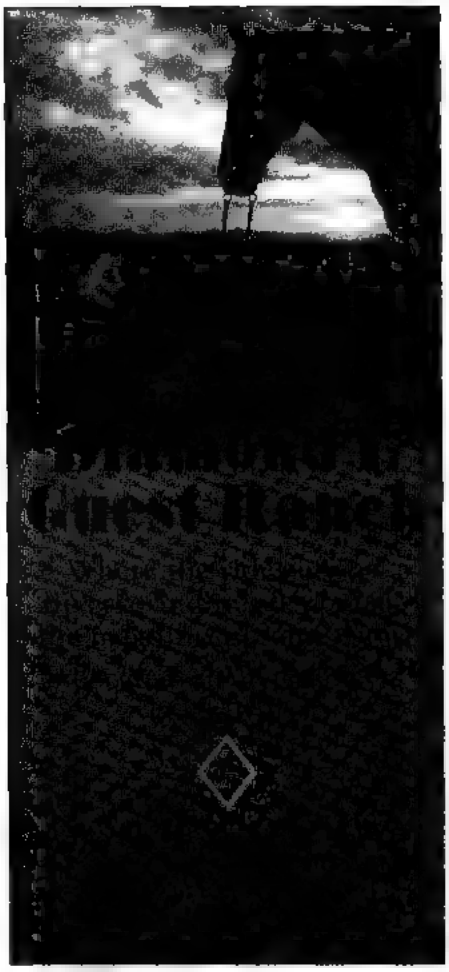

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BY JOHNNY D. BOGGS

Top 10 Old West Sites

And five disappointing sites to skip.

Battlefields . . . boneyards . . . trails . . . stables . . . are where history happened, where people like Frank James, Sitting Bull, Wyatt Earp and Davy Crockett walked and talked. Narrowing down the Old West's best sites to 10 was a difficult chore, but I figured you don't have to be a history buff, or even know who Joseph Heywood was, to appreciate these places.

10. Billy the Kid's Grave (Fort Sumner, NM): No jail could hold the "Noted Desperado of the Southwest," but an iron cage has managed to keep his tombstone from being stolen again. A flood may have washed the Kid away, but Billy's here in spirit, resting alongside "pals" Charlie Bowdre and Tom O'Folliard.

9. Condon Bank (Coffeyville, KS): Now known as the Perkins Building (Luther Perkins built it in 1890), the Condon Bank occupied the space in 1892 when the Dalton boys were shot to pieces trying to pull off a dual robbery. The exterior of this national historical landmark has been restored and the interior renovated to its 1892 appearance.

Original James house in Kearney, Missouri.

– Courtesy Johnny D. Boggs –

8. Jesse James' Farm (Kearney, MO): The Pinkertons bombed it, and Zerelda Cole James Simms Samuel raised kids and a lot of Cain here, but the old cabin's still standing and is well-preserved. See Jesse's original grave site—his remains were moved to Mount Olivet Cemetery in 1902. Just don't say "Bob Ford is my hero."

Local re-enactors of the James-Younger robbery stand in front of the First National Bank in Northfield, Minnesota.

– By Bob Boze Bell –

7. Fort Mandan (Washburn, ND): The Corps of Discovery decided to winter on the Upper Missouri River in 1804 near the Mandan-Hidatsa Indian villages. Not only did Lewis and Clark plan their trek to the Pacific here, they also met Sacagawea and asked her to tag along. The replica fort is located two miles west of the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center.

6. O.K. Corral (Tombstone, AZ): Yeah, most of Tombstone has gone over to the tourists, but you can't walk past this 1881 gunfight site and not think about Wyatt Earp, Doc Holliday and the Clantons. Criminy, it's even hard to look at the building without a Frankie Laine tune running through your head, "there they lie side by side. . . ." Oops, that's at Boot Hill just down the road.

5. First National Bank (Northfield, MN): The wall clock's an original, as are other artifacts in this structure that was built by Hiram Scriver in 1868 and made famous by Cole Younger, Jesse James and friends. It has housed a barbershop, cafe and other enterprises since that fateful September day in 1876, but the Northfield Historical Society bought it in 1975, restored it to its First National Bank look and turned it into a fabulous museum.

4. Fort Laramie (Fort Laramie, WY): From a trading post in 1834 to a military garrison from 1849 to 1890, Fort Laramie is linked to the Oregon and California Trails and the Plains Indian wars. Now a national historic site, this is one of the West's best preserved forts, with knowledgeable re-enactors performing living history during the summer.

3. Golden Spike (Promontory Summit, UT): The transcontinental railroad—one of the 19th century's most

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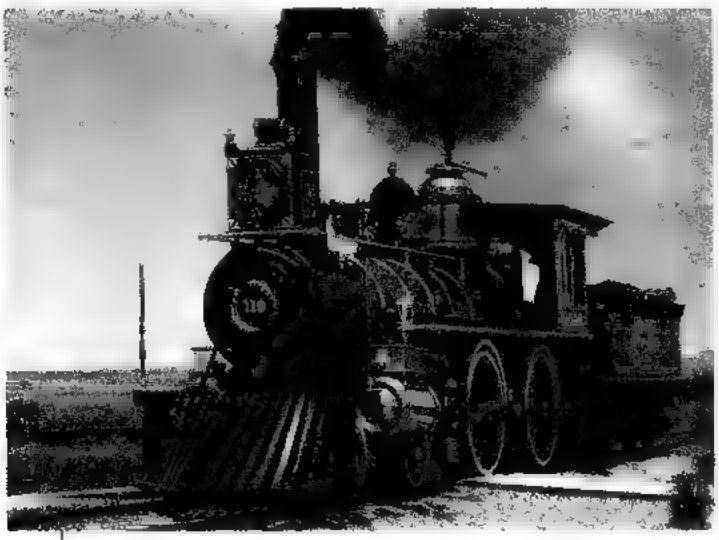
Fort Laramie cavalry barracks.

– By Karen A. Robertson –

important achievements—was completed here, near Salt Lake City, linking East and West. Train and history buffs are in for a treat when huffing, puffing, replica locomotives of the Central Pacific's Jupiter and the Union Pacific's 119 meet as they did on May 10, 1869.

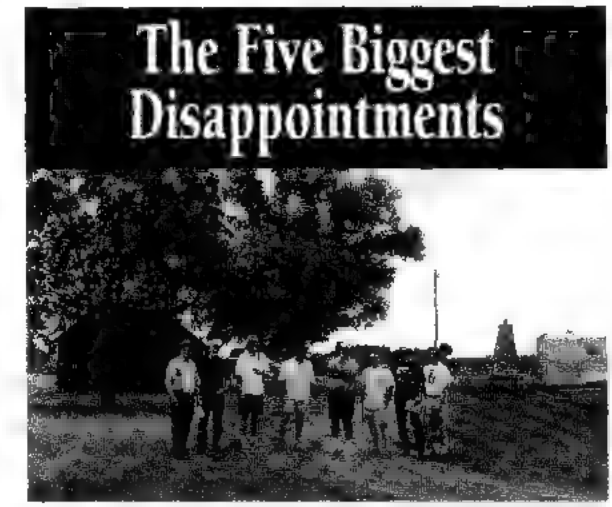
2. Alamo (San Antonio, TX): If everything's supposed to be bigger in Texas, why does this shrine get lost in the middle of downtown? It may be hidden by skyscrapers, but the image of this building is the most recognizable of any Old West site. The Alamo has been a symbol for freedom since 1836, and the Daughters of the Republic of Texas run this museum and sanctuary with reverence—as it should be.



Union Pacific Railroad's Engine No. 119 at Golden Spike.

– By Karen A. Robertson –

1. Little Bighorn Battlefield (Crow Agency, MT): It's hard to visualize what happened at many battlefields, but not at Little Bighorn. The marble headstones are a haunting reminder of the events on July 25-26, 1876, when George Custer . . . oh, you know the story. It was designated a national cemetery in 1879 and a national monument in 1949. The visitor center is first-rate.



The Five Biggest Disappointments

Glenn Shirley (left) and the Renegades at the site of the 1893 Doolin-Dalton Gang shoot-out in Ingalls, Oklahoma.

– True West Archives –

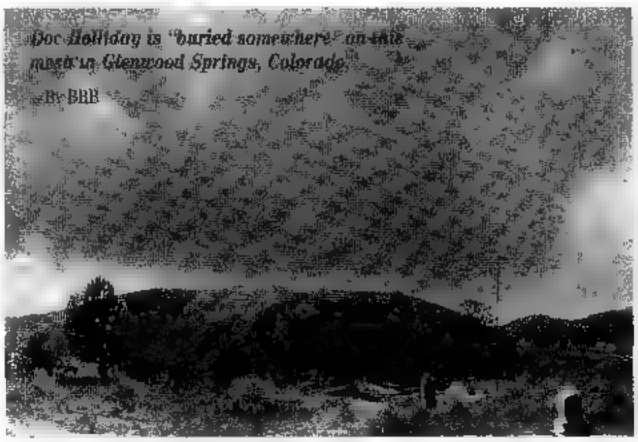
5. Rosebud Battlefield (Decker, MT): Overshadowed by the Little Bighorn in 1876, it's still overshadowed in 2003. Rosebud is now a 3,052-acre, undeveloped state park.

4. Doc Holliday's Grave (Glenwood Springs, CO): Hike up to the Pioneer Cemetery, find the grave, then read the note that says Doc's buried SOMEWHERE in this boneyard.

3. Bear River Massacre (Preston, ID): More Indians died here than at Sand Creek or Wounded Knee, but Battle Creek Ravine, where many of them fell, is now used as a dump.

2. Ingalls, OK: If you didn't go with someone who knew where it was, you wouldn't find the site—it has a cluster of homes, trailer houses and wrecked cars.

1. Adobe Walls, TX: The site of a trading post, buffalo hunters' camp and two great battles deserves at least an on-site museum.



Doc Holliday is "buried somewhere" on this mesa in Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

– By BBB

Johnny D. Boggs' favorite Western historical site is anyplace that serves a good chicken-fried steak, a cold longneck and has Johnny Cash on the jukebox.

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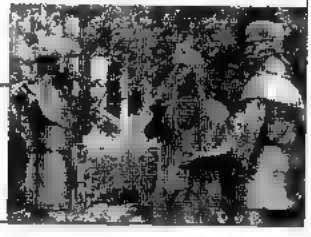

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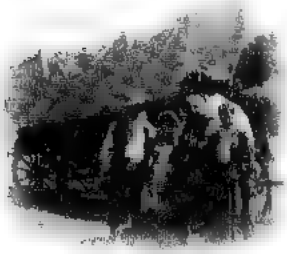

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BY BILL BRUMMEL

Wagon Train Meals

Recipes included.

You've got a wagon and some well-broken oxen and you're ready to recreate a wagon train of the 1850s, but darnit, you're a little stumped on what provisions to take.

Don't feel alone. It's no small task to figure what foodstuffs you'll need for the next several months as you and your family strike out across land that—at least in those days—had no roads and certainly no roadside diners.

Since your wagon is already jammed with everything else you'll need once you get wherever you're going—plows, hand tools, blacksmithing items, axes, leather, pots, pans, a butter churn, bedding, clothes, nails, candles, rope, medicine and a small oaken barrel of whiskey—you can't just go bringing everything from your local grocery store. But you do have to bring everything you'll need except for game, which will be killed along the trail, if you're lucky. So any self-respecting 1850 overlander carried these required foodstuffs:

- 200 lbs. of flour for each person over 10 years old; 100 lbs. for each child under 10
- 15 lbs. of coffee per person
- 15 lbs. of sugar per person
- 100 lbs. of bacon for each person over 10, with half that for the smaller tikes
- 3 to 5 bushels of shelled corn per family
- 50 lbs. of salt per family
- 50 lbs. of rice per family
- 5 lbs. of pepper
- 50 lbs. of dried fruit

Besides all that, every pioneer woman also carried a supply of yeast powder, lard, vinegar, dry beans, hardtack and saleratus, an early form of baking powder. Some carried a coop of chickens and most had a cow tied to the back of the wagon to provide fresh milk. (After the morning milking, the churn was filled and attached to the wagon, whose movement during the day was all that was needed to turn the milk into butter by the end of the day's travel.)

With such a limited selection, meals fit for a gourmet were non-existent and mundane fare prevailed. Pioneers spoke to how precious luxuries like onion and garlic bulbs, cinnamon and cocoa powder were to otherwise dull meals.

In Greenwood County, Kansas, these emigrants stop to eat lunch next to their wagon.

– Courtesy Kansas State Historical Society –

Cooking was done in three main pots: a Dutch oven, frying pan and tea kettle.

Diaries note that the main meal was eaten while the train was camped. At the start of each day, breakfast was essential to prepare everyone for the challenges ahead. Supper was an event that concluded the day's activities and brought families and friends together for food and socializing. Midday lunch along the trail consisted of leftovers.

Emigrant Goldsborough Bruff wrote in his journal: "It is the duty of the cooks on arriving at a camping place to collect [buffalo] chips for cooking. It would amuse friends back home to see them make a grand rush for the largest and driest chips. The chips burn well when dry, but if damp or wet are smokey and almost fireproof." (See "Prairie Coal," page 70)

The Reverend Samuel Park wrote: "Dry bread and bacon consisted our breakfast, dinner and supper. The bacon we cooked when we could obtain wood for fire, but when nothing but green grass could be seen, we ate our bacon without cooking."

No wonder they kept going. They had to hope a real home meant, finally, a real meal.

Bill Brummel is a native-born Texan, who has cooked outdoors since he was 12. He is co-founder of the Lone Star Dutch Oven Society, a field editor for *Backwoodsman* and a member of Western Writers of America and the Texas Outdoors Writer's Association.

[illegible]

FRONTIER CHOW

MARROW GUTS

Intestine heavily coated with fat

Wash intestine and turn inside out so fat is inside. Broil over coals to a golden brown.

◆

JERKY AND BEAN OR RICE SOUP

6 strips of dried meat
1/4 pound salt pork
Handful of beans or rice per adult
Enough water to make a soup

Boil all ingredients together until tender. To make Hoppin' John, use both beans and rice with the meat but with less water. Add in the rice when beans are nearly done. Stir often to keep rice from sticking.

◆

CHOKECHERRY PUDDING

Chokecherries or other berries
Water
Flour
Sugar

Fill a kettle or pot half full of chokecherries. Add water, almost covering berries. Allow to cook until soft. Strain juice from berry pits. Return juice to pot and use flour to thicken into a pudding, adding enough sugar to taste sweet.

"This is horse country."

BUTTERMILK BISCUITS

2 cups flour
1 tablespoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/3 cup lard
3/4 cup buttermilk

Cut the shortening into the dry ingredients until all is coarsely crumbled. Make a well in the mixture and pour in the buttermilk. Stir together until the dough clings together. On a floured surface, gently pat the dough into a 1/2-inch thickness. Cut out biscuits using a cutter dipped in flour between cuts. Put biscuits in a lightly greased, 12-inch Dutch oven and brush the tops with melted butter. Cover the oven and bake for 10 to 12 minutes or until golden brown, using 16 briquets on top and 10 on the bottom.

◆

INDIAN FLAT BREAD

2/3 cup green juniper ashes
1 cup flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
bacon drippings

Burn green juniper needles to get 2/3 cup of ash. Mix with flour and salt. Add water to form a stiff dough. Knead briefly. Pinch off walnut-size pieces of dough. Flatten each piece as thinly as possible between palms of hands. Fry each flattened piece, one at a time, in drippings in a skillet over moderate heat until crisp and lightly browned.

◆

ASH CAKES

1 handful flour
1 finger scoop of lard
2 pinches baking powder, if available
1 pinch salt

Add water to ingredients to make a stiff dough. Stir with a stick, then pat into thick cakes. Set cakes on hot ashes till done, turning once. Good with butter; if not available, substitute warm bone marrow.

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BY W.C. JAMESON

Prairie Coal

The alternative fuel for Old West families.

Prairie coal. the gift of marital suitors; the fuel that saved countless wagon families; the natural, renewable resource that allowed the West to be explored and settled.

If not for prairie coal, our country's pioneering history would read differently. A big thanks to the American buffalo, whose dung—politely known as prairie coal—saved the settlers.

As they traveled on wagon trains, amazed settlers realized how different—and difficult—were the vast prairies. These folks had come from east of the Mississippi River—a land of endless miles of forest, with abundant rainfall and flowing streams—and now they encountered a prairie with nary a tree and where water often had to be rationed.

Frontier boys gathering cow chips.

– Courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society –

The settlers carried many of their needs with them. There were, after all, no Circle K's, so they packed their cooking pots, flour and lard. Acquiring food was not a big deal, since there was plentiful wild game. For shelter, they slept in covered wagons, tents or in the open.

But finding fuel for cooking and heating was a serious problem. Forests, and therefore wood for fuel, were never a significant part of the Great Plains landscape. If they grew at all, trees were mostly found along streams. The farther West you went, the less luck you had locating a tree to fuel your needs.

The adaptability of these Great Plains newcomers is a principal reason they survived. With little or no wood for fuel, Westerners substituted other natural resources. They first tried a bevy of alternatives: corn cobs, braided grass (called "cats") and woody sunflower stalks. These alt-fuels were inefficient since they burned quickly and gave off little heat.

In time, these alternatives faded as settlers favored a fuel that burned hot, evenly and clean. And to the surprise of many housewives, it burned without a dried dung odor.

Clumps of dried dung were known as buffalo wood, buffalo chips, Nebraska oak, Kansas coal, platters and flops, but it was far nicer to settle on prairie coal.

When fuel was low at a homestead, women and children would head out to the field, pushing wheelbarrows or carrying buckets to harvest prairie coal. A wagon occasionally drove onto the buffalo pastures (where cattle later grazed) so that sun-dried patties could be forked or tossed into the wagon bed, and returned to the homesite to be stacked like cordwood.

Settlers eventually relied heavily on dung, some even preferring it to wood since harvesting was easier than locating, cutting and splitting firewood.

Dung-harvesting was quickly optimized. Cattle—the major source after the buffalo was annihilated—were herded by ranchers into pastures of thick and lush grass. Then, the farmers simply sat back and waited for their dung crops to materialize.

In time, a particular value was attached to the dung. Men actually haggled over a cow patty's suitability. (A plump, round, brown-colored patty was not as desirable as a flat one with a white coating.) And occasionally, suitors attempted to impress their potential in-laws by delivering a wagon load of prairie coal as a bridal gift.

Eventually, gas and electricity replaced prairie coal. Yet this natural resource of survival is so entrenched in our culture, that elements of its colorful past are celebrated to this day. Cow chip-tossing contests are commonly held at many county fairs.

Cow chips still remind us that the pioneers who settled the West were "dung ho!"

★

W.C. Jameson is the award-winning author of 35 books and creator of the 2002 one-man musical, *Whatever Happened to the Outlaw, Jesse James?* As a professional treasure hunter, his exploits have inspired two Indiana Jones books.

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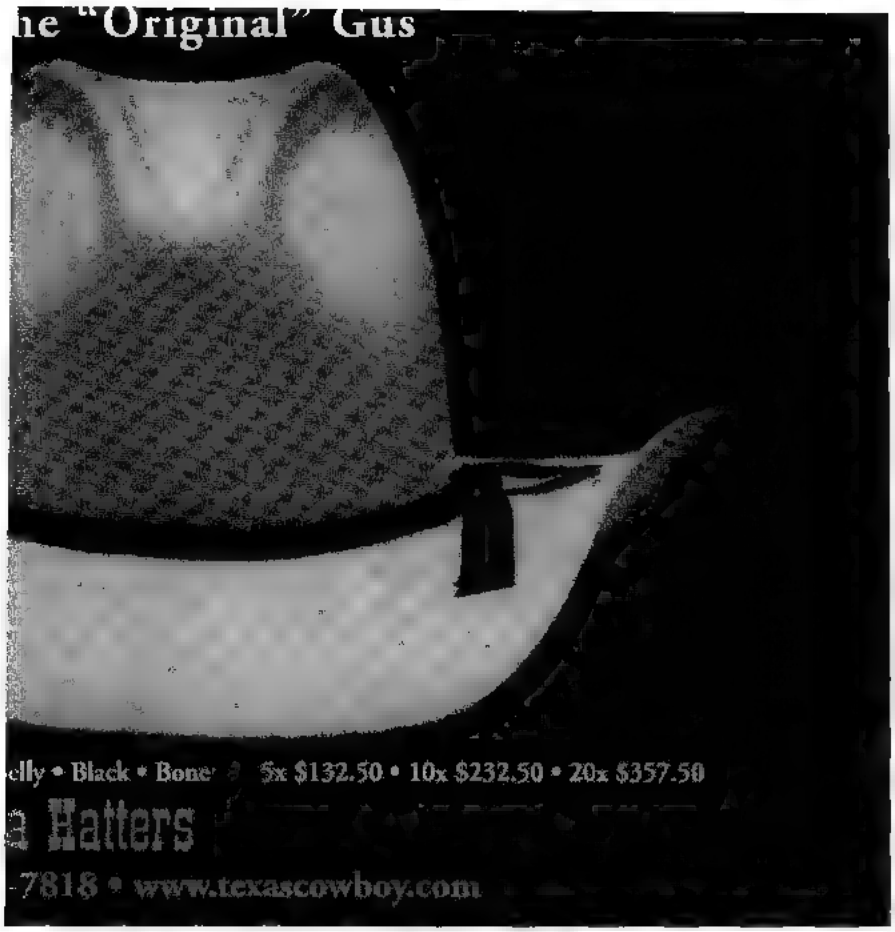
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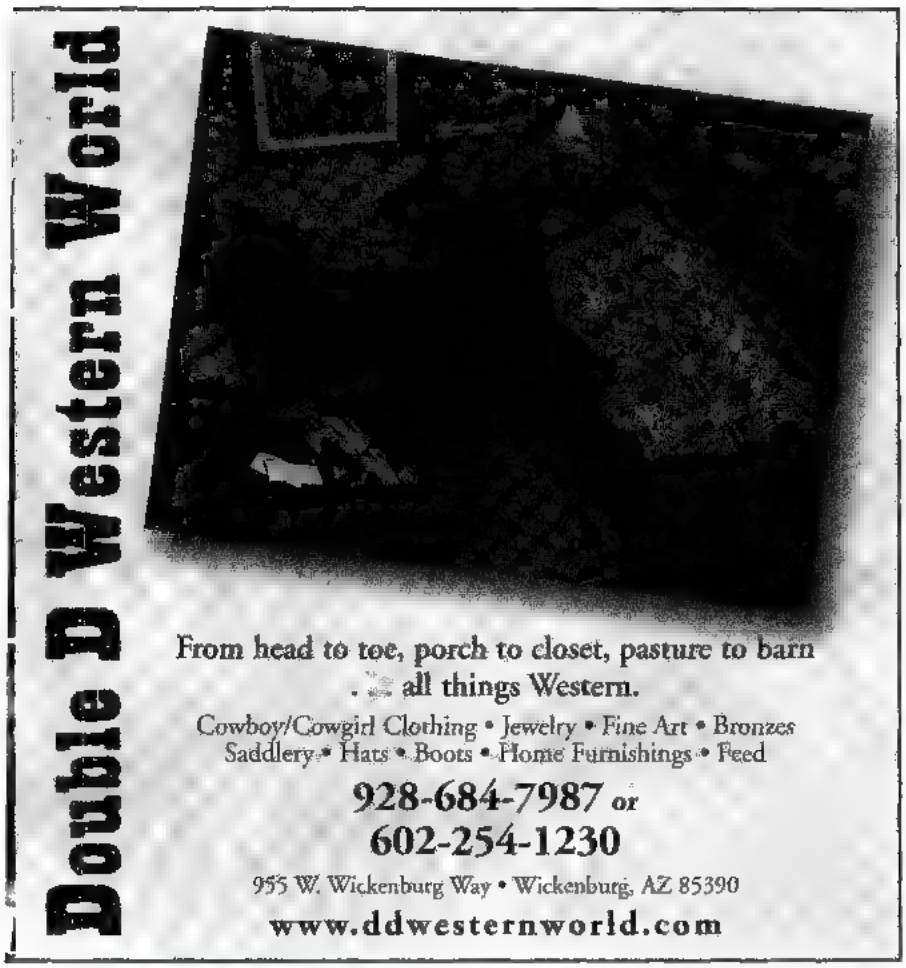
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BY LARRY TRITTEN

The Name Game

Horsing around with names.

Tom Mix and ?

I've always prided myself on knowing the names of the horses of any number of movie cowboys (as well as those of many non-cowboy riders), so when I chanced to discover the name of Rex Allen's horse (Koko) while surfing the Internet, I was properly chastened—it could have been Ovaltine or Calico for all I knew. Actually, Calico was Gabby Hayes' horse, another name I learned while researching this test.

How hip are you in naming prime horseflesh? Saddle up and try your luck.

1. Tom Mix's horse's name was:
- **A.** Tony
- B. Soprano
- C. Don Palomino
- D. Vito Coyuse

2. Cowboy movie star Leonard Slye's screen name was . . . , and his horse's name was:
- **A.** Roy Rogers, Trigger
- B. Rolf Richter, Herr Trigger
- C. The Katzenjammer Kid, Dum Dum
- D. The Square Shooter, Colt 45

3. Annie Oakley's horse's name was:
- A. Walgreen
- **C.** Target
- B. K-Mart
- D. Costco

4. Ken Maynard's horse's name was:
- A. Jane
- C. Boy
- **B.** Tarzan
- D. Cheetah

5. Gene Autry's horse's name was:
- A. Evander
- C. Apollo Creed
- **B.** Champion
- D. TKO

6. Robert E. Lee's horse's name was:
- A. Frequent Flyer
- **C.** Traveller
- B. Vagrant
- D. Passport

7. Ulysses S. Grant's horse's name was:
- A. Hoboken
- C. Beverly Hills
- B. Spokane
- **D.** Cincinnati

8. The name of the winged horse of the muses was:
- **A.** Pegasus
- C. Zorba the Steed
- B. Peggy Sue
- D. El Greco

9. Dale Evan's horse's name was:
- A. Yoohoo
- C. Latte
- **B.** Buttermilk
- D. Moxie

10. Napoleon's white horse's name was:
- A. Messr. Blanc
- C. Josie
- **B.** Marengo
- D. Snowball

11. The Lone Ranger's horse's name was:
- A. Spackle
- **C.** Silver
- B. Aluminum
- D. Tableware

12. The name of Odin's eight-legged horse was:
- A. Spider
- C. Swifty
- **B.** Sleipnir
- D. Lleggs

13. Robert "Little Beaver" Blake's horse's name was:
- A. Jailbait
- C. Hung Jury
- B. Acquital
- **D.** Papoose

14. Zorro's black horse's name was:
- **A.** Tornado
- C. Taco Belle
- B. Speedy Gonzales
- D. Mucho Macho

Allan "Rocky" Lane and ?

15. Hopalong Cassidy's horse's name was:
- A. Whopper
- C. Clodhopper
- **B.** Topper
- D. The Big Bopper

16. Caligula's horse's name was:
- A. Citation
- C. Latin Lover
- **B.** Incitatus
- D. Romulus

17. Allan "Rocky" Lane's horse's name was:
- A. Full House
- C. Royal Flush
- B. Queen Hi
- **D.** Black Jack

18. Tonto's horse's name was:
- A. Shoat
- C. Snoop
- **B.** Scout
- D. Nosy

Ken Maynard and ?

19. The character who rode the horse Chubby on *Bonanza* was:
- **A.** Hoss
- C. Don E. Quine
- B. Jackass
- D. Paw

20. Alexander the Great's horse's name was:
- A. Alexander the Gray
- **C.** Bucephalus
- B. Sweet Acidophilus
- D. Encephalitis

SCORING

19-20 correct: The equivalent of winning the Triple Crown.
15-18 correct: You've cleared most of the hurdles and are still sitting relatively tall in the saddle.
10-15 correct: If you were a bronc rider, you'd be skedaddling away from the horse that just threw you.
10 or fewer correct: You should be put out to pasture.

ANSWERS: 1-A, 2-A, 3-C, 4-B, 5-B, 6-C, 7-D, 8-A, 9-B, 10-B, 11-C, 12-B, 13-D, 14-A, 15-B, 16-B, 17-D, 18-B, 19-A, 20-C

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BASS OUTLAW VS. JOHN SELMAN

Shot above the heart, Bass Outlaw (right) returns fire, hitting John Selman in the thigh.

– BBB –

THREE LAWMEN, TWO SOILED DOVES AND A CARTRIDGE IN A BIDET

TWO DIE FROM WOUNDS

BY BOB BOZE BELL

BASED ON RESEARCH BY LEON C. METZ

Maps & Graphics by Gus Walker

April 5, 1894

Bass Outlaw

– COURTESY ROBERT G McCUBBIN –

Bass Outlaw is drunk. This isn't news. He's been described by fellow Texas Ranger Alonzo Oden as "so kind . . . more sympathetic, more tender, more patient than all of us when necessary." Except, Oden adds cryptically, "Bass couldn't leave liquor alone, and when Bass was drunk, Bass was a maniac."

While in El Paso to testify in court, Bass is in maniac mode at Tillie Howard's Sporting House. Ruby, one of the girls, takes him by the hand and escorts him to her room. A few hours later, he emerges and appears "more tender."

Bass goes out to Utah Street, where he meets Constable John Selman and Frank Collinson. After talking to them, Bass becomes angry and makes threats against U.S. Marshal Dick Ware (see "Bass Outlaw" sidebar, opposite page). Selman tries talking Bass into going to his room to sober up.

Instead, Bass decides he wants an encore with sweet Ruby. To humor him, Selman and Collinson walk him back to Tillie's and wait for him in the parlor while Bass tries to rustle up a rematch. As Selman and Collinson talk, they hear a shot (one report says it came from the water closet). Selman smiles, then says to Collinson, "Bass has dropped his gun."

As Selman leaves to investigate, Tillie herself bursts from her apartment, runs to the back of the building and blows a police whistle. Hearing the alarm, Bass Outlaw chases Tillie into the yard and attempts to take away her whistle.

Texas Ranger Joe McKidrict, who's in town to testify before a federal grand jury, has heard the shot and now hears the whistle. He starts for the scene of the disturbance.

Selman steps onto Tillie's back porch just as Ranger McKidrict enters the backyard.

"Bass, why did you shoot?" McKidrict demands.

"It was an accident, Joe," Selman says. "He's all right."

Turning, Bass snarls, "You want some too?" as he pushes his pistol against McKidrict's head and pulls the trigger. The bullet strikes the Ranger above the left ear. As he falls, Bass shoots him in the back.

Selman jumps from the porch, but before he can draw his weapon, Bass fires at the lawman's face. The bullet just misses Selman's ear and the gunpowder sears his eyes, all but blinding him. Falling backwards, Selman pulls his pistol and fires by instinct, his vision so impaired his target is a blur. Selman's shot hits Bass just above the heart, tearing through his lung and emerging beneath his right shoulder.

The fatal whistle.

-- BBB -

Bass totters backwards, firing twice. One slug hits Selman above the right knee, the other rips through his thigh and severs an artery. Bass falls over a fence and then makes his way onto Utah Street where he surrenders to Texas Ranger Frank McMahon.

TO UL ORG
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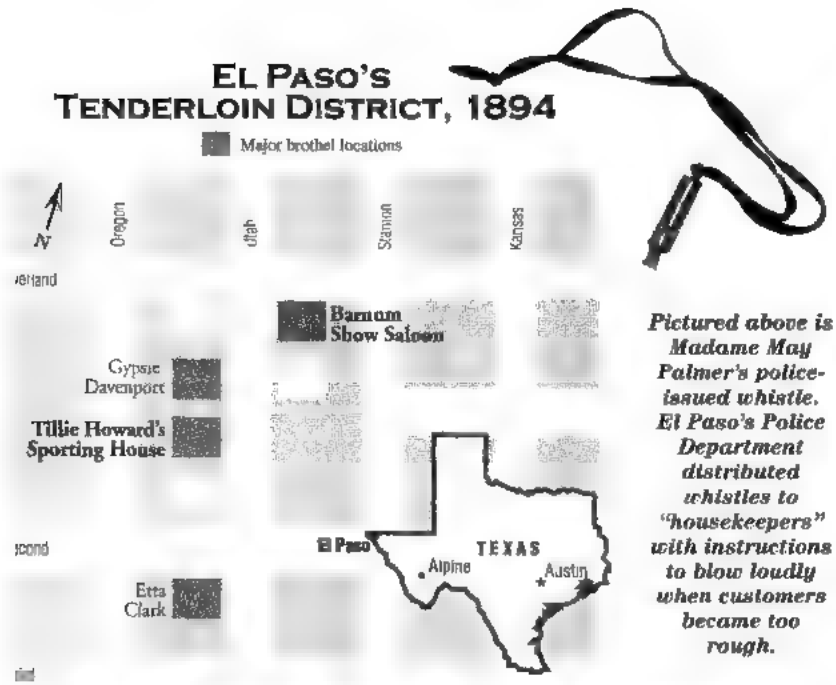

Pictured above is Madame May Palmer's police-issued whistle. El Paso's Police Department distributed whistles to "housekeepers" with instructions to blow loudly when customers became too rough.

Tillie Howard (above) runs the premiere sporting house in El Paso, and many returning customers claim she operates the finest whorehouse in the West.

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES

Bass Outlaw is standing second from the left in this photograph of Texas Rangers, Company D, in Uvalde, Texas, 1888. The photo of Bass, at left, was possibly taken around the same time as the camp shot on the next page. The bust shot (opposite page) came from the Outlaw family's personal album.

– TEXAS RANGER HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM –

John Selman is a figure of stealth and violence. After killing Bass Outlaw, he becomes famous for killing John Wesley Hardin.

– COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN –

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES

Bass Outlaw

Supposedly born in Georgia, Bass Outlaw stands about five feet four inches, with piercing, pale grey eyes and a flowing mustache.

Sources indicate Outlaw was his real name although the late author Jim Browning found evidence his given name was Basil or Bazil and Bass was a nickname (or a misspelling).

In 1885, Bass joined the Texas Rangers, Company E. In 1887, he was transferred to Company D. Although rapidly promoted to sergeant, he was compelled to resign for being drunk on duty at Alpine, Texas (see map, above). Later, he secured a deputy U.S. marshal appointment and was popular with the locals despite numerous run-ins with his superior, U.S. Marshal Dick Ware, who repeatedly threatened to force Bass' resignation over his drinking. It's possible Ware sent another deputy marshal into Bass' territory to serve papers because he lacked faith in Outlaw's sobriety.

On the day of the shoot-out, Bass is supposedly angry about the perceived slight and the money lost on those assignments. Will Burges, who is present when Outlaw dies, maintains Bass was "the only man I ever saw who died in mortal terror."

"The first shot was so close to my face
that my eyes were powder burnt till I was blind,
but I pulled on him at random, and I think I got him.
I know that if I could have seen his bulk
I would have got him, for I can't miss a man
with that gun of mine."

—JOHN SELMAN, ON SHOOTING BASS OUTLAW

A photograph taken in a Texas Ranger camp (probably Company D) at right. Above is a closeup of the same photo. This rarely published photograph shows Bass Outlaw at left, in front of his saddled horse. The Ranger to the right of Bass, with saddle in hand, is Charles Fusselman (later killed in the line of duty). The Ranger in the dark suit with his hand on the saddle horn is Sergeant Ira Aten. He appears to be holding manacles in his left hand.

–COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN–

Odds & Ends

Severely wounded, Bass Outlaw was laid on the bar in the Barnum Show Saloon (see El Paso map, page 75). A doctor concluded nothing could be done for him. Transferred to a soiled dove's bed in a back room, Bass died four hours later. As he convulsed in pain, he kept crying, "Oh, God, help!" And finally: "Where are my friends?" Nobody answered.

●

Texas Ranger Joe McKidrict died a few minutes after being shot. His real name was Joe Cooly but he had changed it to keep his mother from knowing his whereabouts. He was about 30 years old.

●

John Selman was taken by carriage to Dr. Alward White, who diagnosed his wounds as nonfatal. After several weeks in bed, Selman recovered but spent the rest of his days walking with a cane (right) and he never fully recovered the use of his eyes. (Selman's son said his father was night-blind thereafter.) Selman was tried for the Outlaw shooting but exonerated. "Old John" was involved in two more shootings, both planned for upcoming *Classic Gunfights.*

John Selman

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

●

The Outlaw shoot-out was unusual because it involved three lawmen, two of them killed. People in El Paso's Tenderloin behaved themselves for a while. No arrests were made for three weeks, a likely reaction to the killings.

●

We recommend: *John Selman, Gunfighter* and *John Wesley Hardin: Dark Angel of Texas*, both by Leon C. Metz, Oklahoma Press. Call 888-687-1881 for availability.

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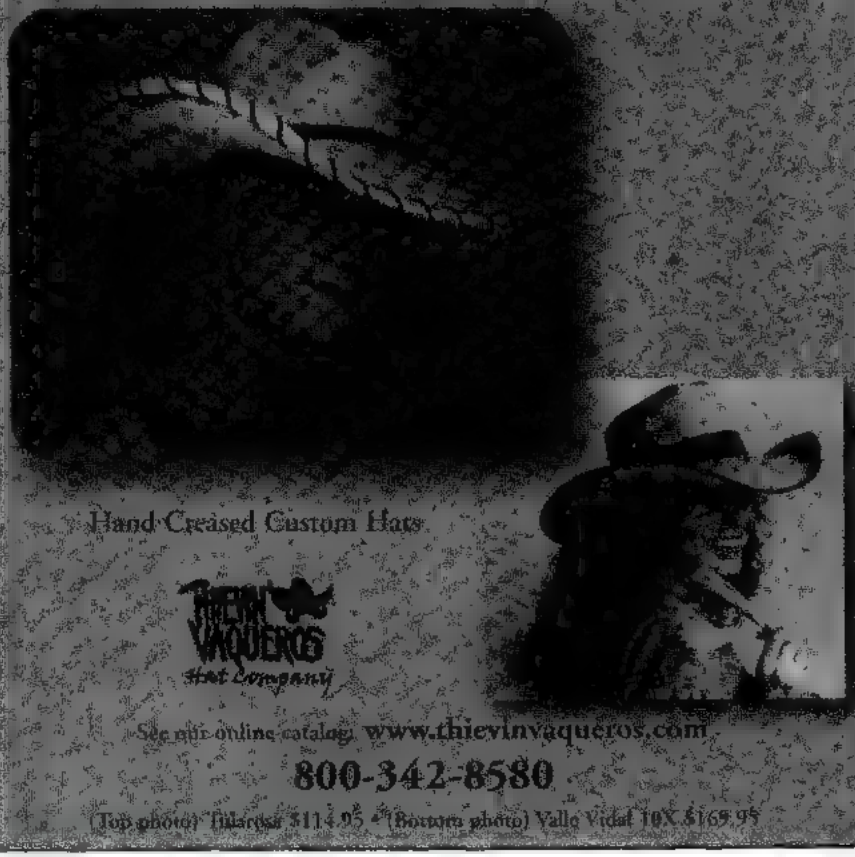
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BY J.D. HAINES

Ears and All

Scalping: from symbolic ritual to a mercenary practice.

In many Native American tribes, touching an enemy with a spear, coup stick or hand brought a higher honor than killing the enemy outright. Similarly, obtaining a scalp in hand-to-hand combat was like counting coup.

John Stands In Timber, a Cheyenne tribal historian, said "There was always a ceremony when a victorious war party returned to the village, to honor those men who had done the greatest deeds. Counting the first coup was the highest honor, but second and third coup on the same enemy counted also, and the man who scalped him counted fourth."

The returning warriors "entered the village from the east and prayed in front of the tepees, with the criers announcing the names of those who had counted coup and taken scalps. The people rejoiced and praised them, and after they had finished they went to the Keeper of the Sacred Hat.

"The Keeper was ready to receive them. The crier announced again about the coups, and who had taken scalps, and the first of these with the scalps carried it forward and gave it to the Keeper. He lifted it up, talking and praying, toward the right end of the village, and then the southwest and northwest and left end, and then lifted it again and fastened it under the pins at the front of the Sacred Hat Tepee, where it could be seen by everyone. It was a kind of offering."

Techniques varied according to tribe. Eastern tribes removed only the scalp from the head. Great Plains tribes, like the Sioux, removed the ears with the scalps. Other plains tribes lifted only a small circular patch of scalp at the crown of the head.

Occasionally, a scalping victim survived. William Thompson worked as a Union Pacific telegraph operator and was attacked by a Cheyenne war party on August 6, 1867, near Plum, Nebraska. During the fight, "an Indian leaped upon him and expertly cut and wrenched his scalp from his head. . . . The knife tearing through his skin brought Thompson back to his senses. Starting up, he snatched his scalp from the warrior and ran away. The Indian, scarcely believing what had happened, stared after him, but did not follow." The scalp has been on display at the Omaha Public Library for many years.

Physician Robert C. Moore described a seven by nine-inch defect left by Thompson's missing scalp. The wound was treated with surgeon's lint saturated with pure olive oil. Healing required three months.

Scalping was a grim reality of Western life. Lieutenant Reade of the 3rd Infantry and frontiersman John O'Austin discover the body of Ralph Morrison, who was killed and scalped by Indians near Fort Dodge, Kansas, in 1869.

TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

While scalping has come to be universally associated with Native American warriors, the practice probably dates to prehistoric times. A skull discovered at a neolithic village near Strasbourg, France, shows evidence of scalping. A skull found in Sweden dated 2180 B.C. also appears to have been scalped.

Herodotus, writing in 450 B.C., made the first written records of this practice. Accounts of Parthians and Scythians detail the scalping of enemies. In 168 B.C. the Apocryphal books of the Maccabees mention scalping as punishment for two Hebrew brothers who refused to repudiate their religion. Paulus Orosius, a fifth-century theologian, describes Roman soldiers in Northern Italy taking scalps as war trophies in 101 B.C.

During the Dark Ages, little was recorded about scalping, with the exception of Procopious' sixth-century account of Count Belisarius' campaigns against the Visigoths of Northern and Central Italy in A.D. 522-553:

"Count Belisarius was much concerned about the barbaric conduct of certain of the auxiliaries of the Gothic forces. These, on taking or killing an enemy, first slowly tormented the victim and then, by making a series of short slashes about the victim's skull below the line of the ears, removed the entire upper skin portion of the skull. This they treated with oils and stuffed with padding, making a most grisly trophy which they proudly displayed as a trophy of war."

The Anglo-Saxon statutes of Canute the Great, who died in 1035 as King of England, Norway and Denmark, decreed scalping as punishment for certain crimes. In 1159, Berthold van Urach, leader of King Friedrich I's troops, was scalped during a siege at Cremona in Northern Italy. Van Urach's scalp adorned the helmet of his victor. Between 1300-1500, scalping fell out of practice in Europe and was largely

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forgotten by the time the Europeans invaded the New World.

In 1520, Francisco de Garay, the Spanish administrator of Mexico, described natives scalping their enemies. In 1535, Jaques Cartier reported instances of Canadian Native Americans scalping. DeSoto also mentioned scalping in 1540. After Europeans arrived in America, the practice soon degenerated from a ceremonial custom to a mercenary practice.

Europeans viewed scalping as barbaric. Some Native American tribes, however, considered an enemy's scalp as a trophy. Accumulating them was a sign of combat prowess, such as ribbons worn on today's military uniforms. Many tribes displayed scalps on their cabins, tipis, bridles or clothing.

In 1637, New England Puritans were the first Europeans to offer bounties to friendly Indians for the scalps of their native enemies. In 1675, Connecticut and Massachusetts colonies paid their militias 30 shillings for each Indian scalp. But the French in 1688 claimed the dubious distinction as the first Europeans to offer a reward (10 crowns) for a white man's scalp. The British retaliated in 1696 with a 100-pound premium for each French scalp.

In 1756, 22-year-old George Washington wrote to Governor Dinwiddie, requesting a bonus be given to his troops for bringing in the scalp of Frenchman Ensign Douville. In 1780, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania paid $2,500 for each Indian scalp. Georgia, South Carolina and Louisiana also offered rewards for Indian scalps.

As late as 1863, Minnesota offered $25 for Sioux scalps, and until 1886, Mexico paid $200 for Apache scalps. One enterprising bounty hunter, Jim Kirker, brought in 148 scalps on one occasion and 182 scalps on another, including the scalp of his Indian guide.

The long history of scalping, dating to prehistoric times, reveals that the practice was common to many cultures and was but another example of mankind's barbarity.

J.D. Haines is a family doctor in Stillwater, OK, and author of *Wild and Woolly: Tales from Oklahoma's Territorial Days*, due out this year.

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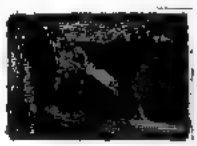

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A Critic's Critic

T.J. Stiles responds to True West's *review of* Jesse James Last Rebel of the Civil War *(Feb/March '03)*

"My aim was to go beyond just digging up sources. Mr. Yeatman has already [provided] a goldmine of information in his book. I respect his work and learned a great deal from it. But even before his book came out, I wanted to take a different approach, putting Jesse James and his acts in a larger historical perspective."

An example Stiles gives is the Adair train robbery. He says he wanted to look at the crime of train robbery in a broader sense, considering its impact on the railroads, the express companies, the passengers and the train crews. Stiles believes it's important to understand that the railroads were not the target of the holdups—it was the express agencies. They were the ones who hired detectives and put up rewards.

In regard to **Clay Reynolds'** criticisms, Stiles questions Reynolds' assertion *The Last Rebel* has nothing new to offer. Even Ted Yeatman admits the book brings up some new points.

"I did my homework," Stiles says. "But the critics want a research report and nothing more. That's not what I intended. I did what I set out to do, to take a broader look at the post-war era in Missouri and how it explains Jesse James. I used interpretation and judgement as part of that mix."

Ted Yeatman also accused Stiles of trying to be "better than" William Settle. Stiles says that's not the case. Settle's book, *Jesse James Was His Name*, established a standard that others must follow when writing about Missouri and Jesse James.

"But I have the advantage of 30 years of new findings about Jesse—including important ones from John Koblas, Marley Brant and Ted Yeatman. I respect and admire what they've done. My book isn't better than others in the field—it just takes a different perspective. *Last Rebel* is not the last word on Jesse James by any means."

T.J. Stiles is at work on a book about railroad tycoon Cornelius Vanderbilt.

BY LARRY TRITTEN

Tribute to a One-eyed Jack

Jack Elam—the Western villain who relied on his eyesight.

You know the face of Jack Elam. You've undoubtedly hissed at that face in any of a dozen films or TV Westerns. This native of Miami, Arizona, was the definitive Western villain throughout his long career.

One reason why Elam became such a popular villain may have been due to a childhood fight. Twelve-year-old Elam was blinded in one eye when another kid jabbed a pencil into it. Instead of his blindness faulting Elam as an actor, it was his shifty, glass-eyed, wild look that made him especially menacing and memorable.

Jack Elam: is it time for him to put on his gunfightin' glasses?

TRUE WEST ARCHIVES

He came to acting by way of accounting, which seems amusing—the thought of Jack Elam at a desk with an adding machine. He was the manager of the Bel-Air Hotel, as well as an accountant for Sam Goldwyn, before he strapped on a gunbelt and spoke into the camera.

John Sturges' Gunfight at the O.K. Corral captures one of the Old West's most famous showdowns as Johnny Ringo (John Ireland), Ike Clanton (Lyle Bettger) and Tom McLowery (Jack Elam) await Wyatt Earp (Burt Lancaster), Doc Holliday (Kirk Douglas), Virgil Earp (John Hudson) and Morgan Earp (DeForest Kelley).

—COURTESY PARAMOUNT—

Elam then became the archetypal ugly villain with a face, as Raymond Chandler might have put it, that maybe a mother could love. He was in the subcategory of villains who were not just bad but despicable, virtually reptilian, often maniacal.

It was a route traveled by Charles Bronson in the early years of his career, but some quirk of the public taste allowed Bronson to metamorphose into a hero. The reason may have been that while Bronson's early villains were evil, they were not doltish as were many of Elam's. By the time Bronson played the leading man in *Once Upon a Time in the West*, Jack Elam was still the quintessential crazy, ugly, bad guy, and in that same movie he was killed by Bronson in the pre-credit sequence, which included a hilarious and memorable bit in which Elam was relentlessly annoyed by a buzzing fly

Sheriff Jason McCullough (James Garner, left) and his slow-witted deputy, Jake (Jack Elam, right), tie their prisoner, Joe Danby (Bruce Dern), to a cannon, in Support Your Local Sheriff! *In the background, Danby's family is wary the lawmen are bluffing.*

– COURTESY UNITED ARTISTS –

The first time I noticed Elam was in the movie *Rawhide*, when he played an outstandingly unsavory character. (In that movie, he was killed by star Tyrone Power.) But by the late '50s, Elam was familiar enough that audiences had acquired, by reflex, an affection for him. He was the actor everyone loved to hate.

Later in his career he would, in fact, be cast against type in sympathetic parts, a notable example being in Howard Hawks' last movie, *Rio Lobo*, in which he played John Wayne's loony, shotgun-toting sidekick. But Elam was and always will be a Western villain. He even brought the same creepy charisma to his roles as contemporary hoods. The one I remember most vividly was his part in *Kansas City Confidential*.

Elam played Marshal George Taggart, friend (or sometimes foe) to 1850s lawyer Sam Houston, in the 1963 TV series Temple Houston.

– COURTESY NBC –

REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Boss (Jack Elam, right) questions the motives of Jason O'Rourke (Louis Gossett, Jr., left) and Quince Drew (Larry Hagman, center), who wandered into his outlaw camp, in Burt Kennedy's Sidekicks. Jason tells Boss that he's an explosives expert and Quince and he are bank robbers. Boss replies, "There's something fishy about you two. I can feel it right here! Of course, it could be the beans." In another clever line, the Boss says, "You know something? I can hear every word everybody is saying! I got my earsight back!"

– True West Archives –

It is altogether fitting that in the matter of tributes, Arizona should acknowledge Jack Elam more emphatically than its best known cowboy, Rex Allen. How many Rex Allen Westerns can you name? Jack Elam was in, to name a few, *The Gunfighter, Vera Cruz, Rancho Notorious, The Far Country, Cattle Queen of Montana, Gunfight at the O.K. Corral, High Noon, The Way West, Rio Lobo, The Comancheros, Once Upon a Time in the West, Firecreek* (I believe James Stewart killed him with a pitchfork in that one), *Cat Ballou, Support Your Local Sheriff!* and *Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid.*

And during a time when Westerns on TV were as ubiquitous as horns in a stampede, he was pretty much in all of those, too—including, *Gunsmoke, The Big Valley, Sugarfoot, Cheyenne, The Rifleman, Bonanza* and *Wagon Train.*

Jack Elam is, appropriately, in Oklahoma City's National Cowboy Hall of Fame. And the good news is that, as many times as he bit the dust before the guns of countless leading men, he is still alive, having hung his hat in Ashland, Oregon, where he keeps busy "drinking, playing cards, and telling dirty stories."

Here's looking at you, Jack, and thanks for a hatful of memories.

"No, no, son. Wampum starts with a capital . . . ."

WESTERNS MOVIE FESTIVAL

Sundance Film Festival Presents Classic Westerns this Summer.

Beginning July 12 at City Park in Park City, Utah, the Park City Municipal Corporation and Sundance Institute will present four classic Westerns. The free screenings begin at sundown, around 8:30 p.m.

Park City has hosted the Sundance Film Festival for 18 years and was founded by **Robert Redford** in 1981. Its showcase of independent American and International films is held each January.

Sundance was excited to work with Park City in adding Classic Westerns to its summer events, said **Jill Miller,** managing director of the Sundance Institute.

Bring your family and enjoy these Westerns!

July 12—*Shane* (1953)

Directed by **George Stevens** and starring **Alan Ladd**, *Shane* was a nominee for the 1953 Academy Award for Best Picture. Ladd stars as the title character Shane, a former gunslinger searching for refuge in a Wyoming valley where he connects with a homestead family, only to be drawn into a brutal range war.

July 26—*Red River* (1949)

John Wayne and **Montgomery Clift** star in what some critics call the greatest Western of all time. Directed by renowned filmmaker **Howard Hawkes,** *Red River* chronicles the struggle between a father and his adopted son as they attempt the first cattle drive on the Chisholm Trail.

August 9—*Westward the Women* (1951)

Based on a story by **Frank Capra,** *Westward the Women* is not your typical Western. Set in 1851, it follows a wagonload of mail-order brides as they make a grueling trek to California to meet their prospective husbands.

August 16—*Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* (1969)

Directed by **George Roy Hill,** *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* stars **Paul Newman** and Robert Redford as the legendary bank and train robbers. After a botched robbery, the two flee to Bolivia while being relentlessly pursued by lawmen. The film was nominated for seven Academy Awards, including Best Picture, and won four.

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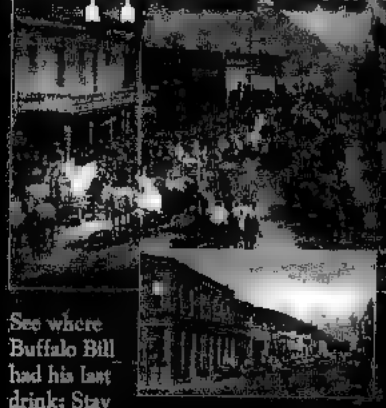

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- **Travel:** Day Trip—Cheyenne, Wyoming.

JULY

50 THINGS ABOUT
WYATT EARP

You don't know.

- **Features:** Time line—1881 to 1900. Gunfight at the O.K. Corral; deaths of Jesse James and Billy the Kid.
- **Classic Gunfights:** El Paso Madam—Bessie Cowan's boss is shot in the "public arch."
- **Travel:** Renegade Roads—San Luis Valley Trail—Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico.
- **Travel:** Day Trip—Deadwood, South Dakota.

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

50 GREATEST LEGENDS

From the Old West

- **Features:** Time line—1901 to 1920. Death of Butch Cassidy & Sundance Kid; Pancho Villa and the Mexican Revolution; rise of the mythical West.
- **Classic Gunfights:** Blackjack Ketchum Gang at Turkey Creek Canyon, New Mexico.
- **Travel:** Renegade Roads—California Trail from Fort Hall, Idaho to Sacramento, California.
- **Travel:** Day Trip—Tacoma, Washington.

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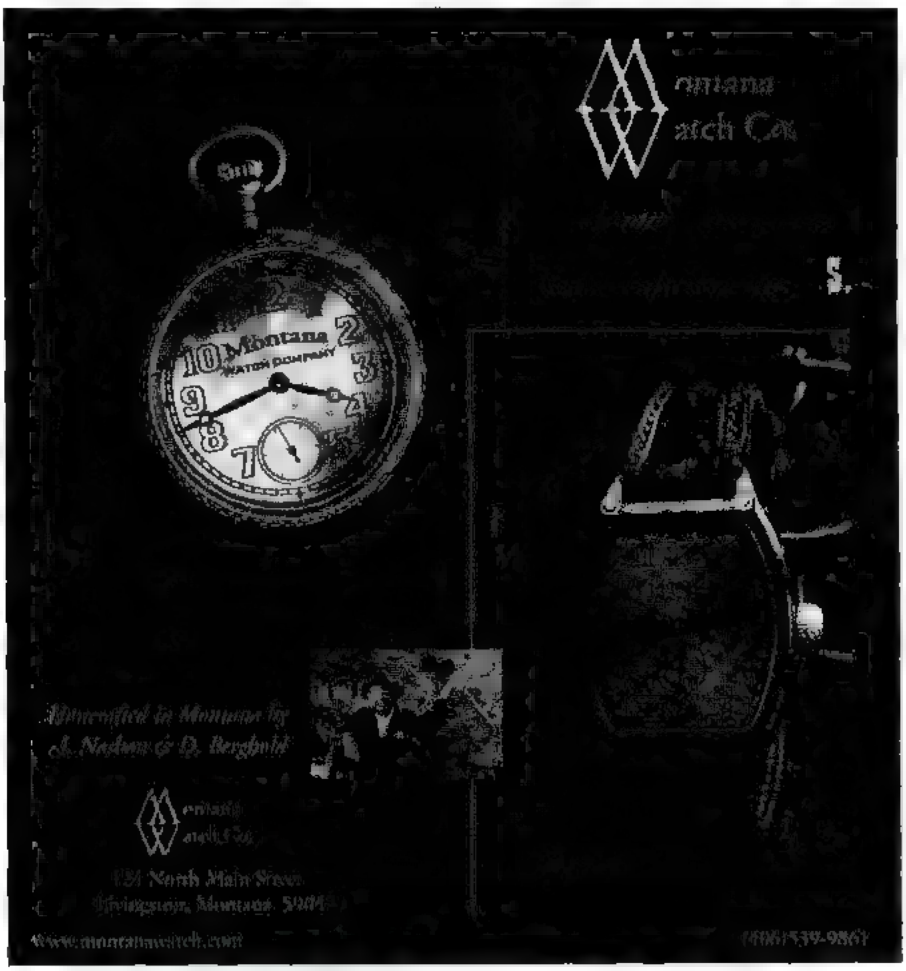


BY R.G. ROBERTSON

Painting the Mythical West

The art of Thom Ross.

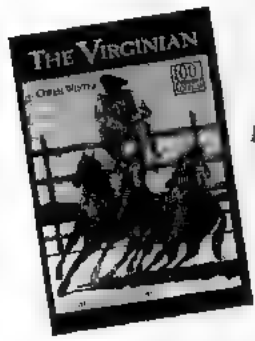
Thom Ross will never be accused of being a traditional Western artist, whose work—in his words—is "more cliché than it is an artist examination of the subject." According to Ross, the "accepted" style of most popular Western art—"the grim-faced warrior, the noble cowboy herding cattle"—is the reason "so many art critics don't take 'Western' art seriously."

Ross says he has "always been intrigued with how a historical event becomes interpreted through legend to emerge, finally, in its mythic form." So while his paintings are always of historical moments, he tries "to express something of the 'myth' by striving less for historical accuracy and more for the sensation of 'myth' in which the reality is less important than the 'meaning' of the event."

Thom Ross at Buffalo Bill's grave in Golden, Colorado.

– COURTESY THOM ROSS –

Ross' work is in numerous galleries, including the Kneeland Gallery (Ketchum, ID), Wilde-Meyer Gallery (Scottsdale, AZ), and Lucas Gallery (Telluride, CO), and is in the permanent collections at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center (Cody, WY) and Booth Museum of Western Art (Cartersville, GA). Ross is also the author of *Gunfight at the OK Corral: In Words & Pictures*, and he illustrated the Buffalo Bill Historical Center's 100th anniversary edition of *The Virginian*. He currently lives in Seattle, Washington, but will soon be moving to Santa Fe, New Mexico.



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by
Robert W. Broshears

The legend. Born March 19, 1848, died January 13, 1929. In early 1880 Wyatt was appointed Deputy Sheriff of Pima County, Arizona Territory. Wyatt and Deputy Newton Babcock were charged with keeping the law in Tombstone. In late 1880 Wyatt resigned his commission and returned to his business ventures with his two brothers. In 1881 numerous run-ins between the Earps and the Cowboys occurred. The Cowboys were a fraternity of rustlers and gunfights, which included the Clantons and Johnny Ringo. The famous confrontation between the Earps, "Doc" Holliday, and the Cowboys occurred October 26, 1881, at the "O.K. Corral."

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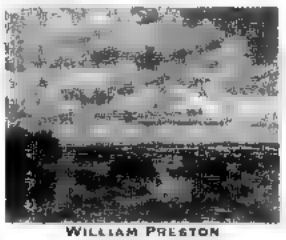

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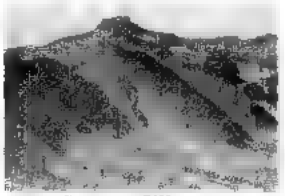

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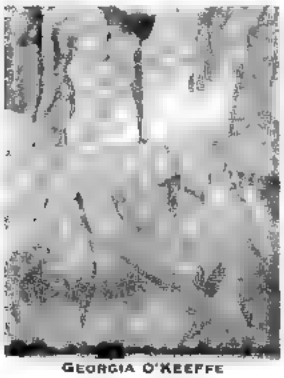

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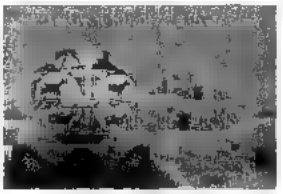

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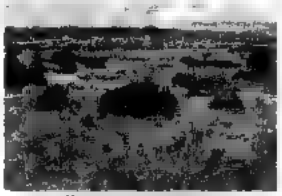

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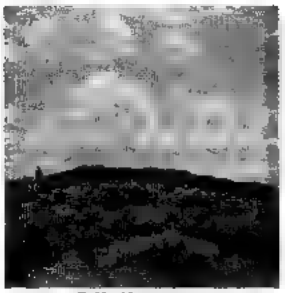

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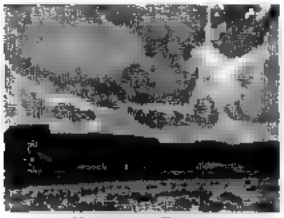

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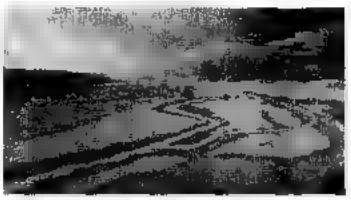

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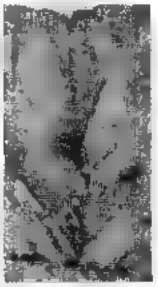

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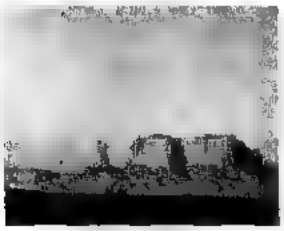

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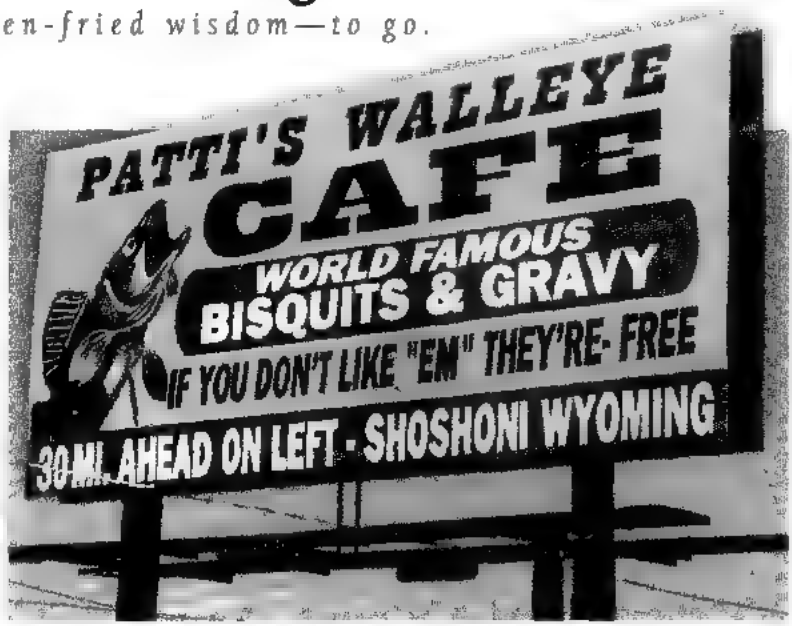
BY BOB BOZE BELL

Fishy Sign Leads to Enlightenment

A little chicken-fried wisdom—to go.



The fishy sign in Thermopolis, Wyoming, that gets Patti "more damn business."

ALL PHOTOS BY BOB BOZE BELL

Last September I flew out of Phoenix, home of the 100-degrees-at-midnight sauna, to the high-mountain cowboy-bosom country of Cody, Wyoming. I was bound for some business and fun at the 10th Annual Cody Design Conference.

On the last day of the conference, I decided to take a rental car road trip and mapped out a one-day run to see my mom over near Casper (see map on next page).

After an hour of cruising in the cold darkness, I pulled into Thermopolis. It was just past sunrise and I was in the mood for a sit-down breakfast at a great little hometown cafe.

I encountered a problem: nothing was open on Sunday morning except McDonald's. No way—I wanted a real cafe with steamy windows, a cup of black Joe and a waitress named Madge. After taking several side streets, I finally saw a billboard at the far edge of town. On it was the painting of a big ol' fish jumping right out of the water and the words: Patti's Walleye Cafe, 30 miles ahead (see sign, above).

When I took this photo, I thought Patti's was abandoned. Note signs.

Though I was starving, I punched the accelerator and cruised through the Wind River Canyon at about 85. I shot through Shoshoni and was out the other end when I realized I must have missed the cafe. After turning around, I went back through town but didn't see it. Frustrated, I pulled into a Texaco and bought gas ($10.20). Seeing a local-looking guy getting in his pickup, I asked him. He didn't know. I went inside to pay, and the skinny boy with an earring at the cash register didn't know either. Nor did the girl at the microwave food take-out. Finally, a church lady with muffins smiled and told me the cafe was up the road on the way back towards "Thermop" (as the locals call Thermopolis). I had missed it driving in!

At the north edge of town, I saw a cinder block building 35 yards off the road. (I'd seen it, but it had looked like an abandoned garage.) A sign said Walleye and another said Bisquits & Gravy, but the place was nothing like the billboard advertised. There were no cars anywhere and when I pulled up close to take a photograph, I noticed the Open signs but I didn't believe them. Surely, this ramshackle, former welding shop had long ago given up the ghost.

But, when I went up to the door and pulled, lo and behold, it opened. I peered in expecting to see cob-webs and creepy ruins. Instead, I saw three women huddled by a soda cooler. "Are you open?" I asked incredulously. One of the women was smoking and hacking (I later learned she was Patti) and she mumbled something (probably "Duh," since all three seemed just as incredulous that I couldn't see they were open).

I went out and turned off the car motor, amazed (and somewhat embarrassed) that I had gone to such trouble to find a cafe that looked so meager. At that moment the Texaco's microwave fast food seemed attractive. But I thought, "Hey, I've come this far, I might as well give it a chance."

Inside the cafe, I entered a small dining room that resembled an early 1960s air-raid bunker: cinder block walls, no windows, bad art on the walls. There was a small TV on a moving tray, blaring a news program that was about to show a

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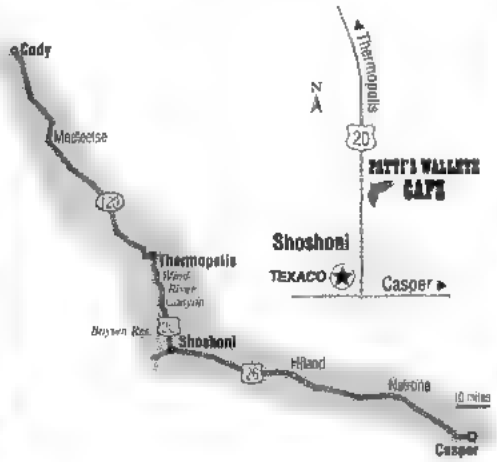

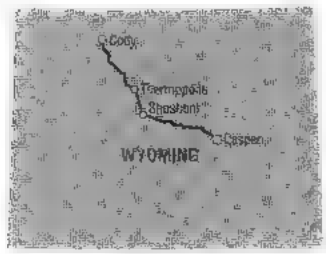

The three women I encountered when I opened the door. Patti is on the left.

video, for the billionth time, of Madelyne Toogood, who had been caught hitting her kid by a parking lot surveillance camera. I didn't want that for breakfast, so I took a booth looking away from the TV.

As my waitress poured me coffee, a couple came in and sat in the adjacent booth, facing me. Now the last thing a single diner wants to look at is another diner's face. As a bonus, they too started hacking. The waitress came over to them and said, "I guess stopping smoking hasn't helped your cough any." That told me two things: they were regulars and I was going to watch them eat one of their last meals, bite for bite.

I went outside to buy a newspaper so I could sit sideways and read and not have to look at the TV behind me or the couple hacking in front of me.

On the way back in, I ran into Patti. "I want you to know," I told her, "I'm here because of your billboard in Thermopolis."

Patti took a deep drag off her cigarette and replied, "That sign has got me more damn business." She said it as if the sign was a nuisance and if it didn't stop soon, she'd have to go up there with a chain saw and bring it down herself.

I didn't want Patti to know how hard I had worked to find her place, but I still wanted to help her. "Patti," I said diplomatically, "you need a sign outside that matches the sign in Thermopolis." Looking at me with a deadpan expression, she said, "It'll just blow down." That was it. She didn't want to talk about it.

The chicken-fried steak, biscuits and gravy were excellent. But when I drove away, I realized I would probably never return. Cruising on toward Casper, I began to ponder the why of it. Here's what I came up with:

- The advertising on the billboard was genius—it made me drive 30 extra miles to eat—and the food was good, but the experience was a failure.
- Many, in a town of 651 souls, didn't know she existed (or they didn't know her place by the name on the billboard). If you're in business, your signage had better be uniform and live up to expectations.
- People want a complete experience. Just having a good product, or meal, isn't enough. I wonder how many "billboards" create an expectation that isn't met when people get to the actual business site.
- I also wonder how many customers try to help us here at *True West* by giving us honest advice—"your signs don't match"—and how many times do we blow them off?

At that moment, I vowed that when I got home, I would take a good, hard look at our business from top to bottom. And I did.

Thanks Walleye Patti for changing my life.

Bob Boze Bell is the executive editor of *True West* magazine.

SIDEROAD

BBB's Road Rules:

- You must leave before daylight, preferably one hour before. (This was my dad's regimen and I rarely get my wife, Cathy, to do it. She likes to leave around 10 in the morning and it ain't the same. In fact, it's totally unpleasant).
- After you've driven for an hour or so, you must stop and eat at a real cafe that serves bacon and eggs (no francaise).
- If you listen to the radio, you must find a local station that does the crop report (nearly impossible with today's syndicated, cookie-cutter music formats).
- You must stop at every museum and historical marker (or historical marker, if you prefer).
- You must avoid the freeway when possible, especially in towns. Take the business route and see the downtown decay (towns decay because the freeway bypasses them).

"One of the symptoms of an approaching nervous breakdown is the belief that one's work is terribly important."

- Bertrand Russell

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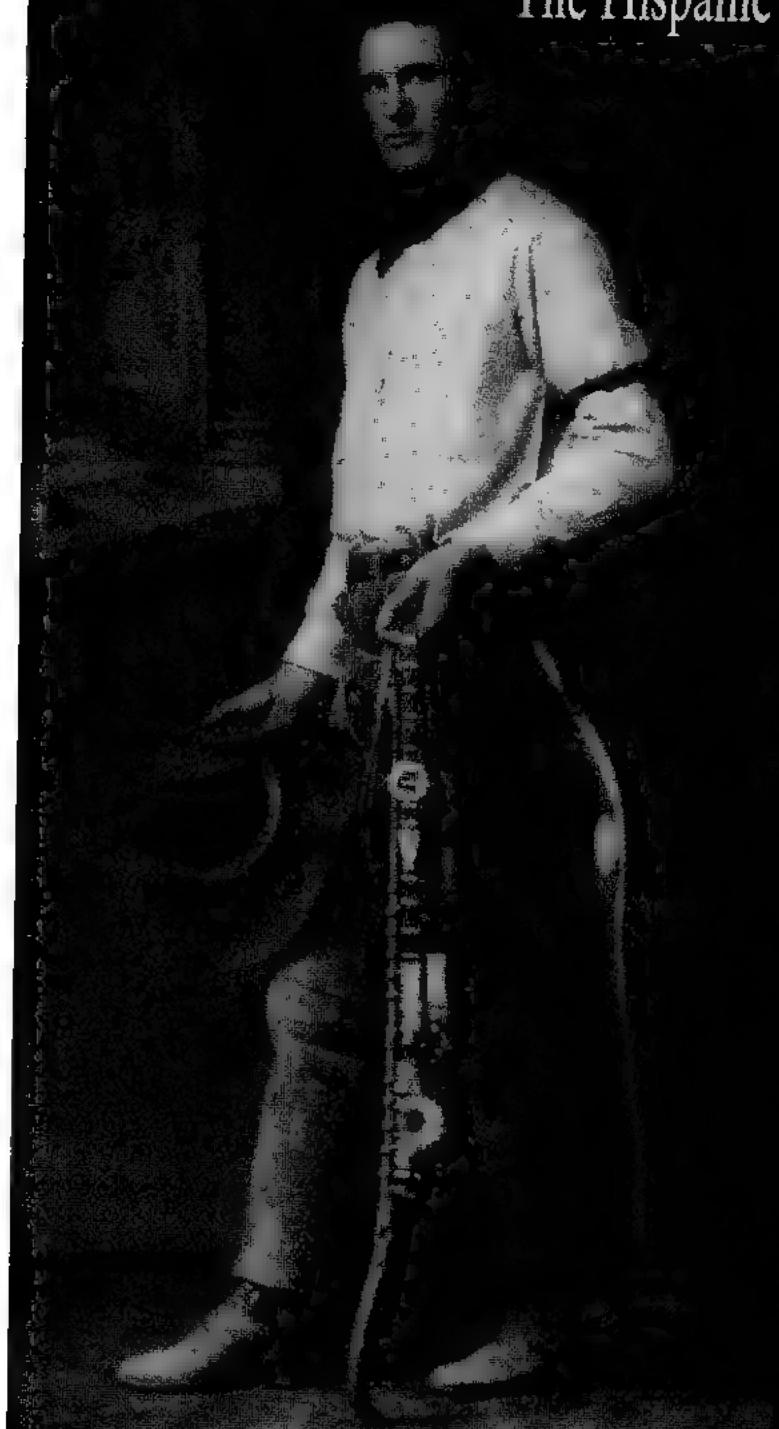
Buckaroo!

The Hispanic Heritage of the High Desert



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BY JANA BOMMERSBACH

National Buffalo Museum

Jamestown, North Dakota

Tahtonka, the Sioux called them, the great buffalo that once so covered the prairie, you could be stuck a whole day, waiting for a herd to pass.

At the beginning of the 1800s, some 60 million of these hairy, smelly beasts were the lifeblood of Native American existence. They were reduced to 40 million by 1830; by 1888, they were gone, slaughtered for their valuable hides (and tongues, an Eastern delicacy).

The National Buffalo Museum in Jamestown, North Dakota, is dedicated to the history of the American Bison, with displays showing the animal's evolution, as well as Native American artifacts and valuable artwork.

It's hard to miss this small, but fascinating museum as you drive down I-94. Just follow the "world's largest buffalo" looking down from a hill—a big plastic mass that dwarfs even a large man—much like real buffalos dwarfed everything around them in their heyday.

The museum features a 10,000-year-old bison skull—still holding six teeth—that shows the characteristics of two extinct forms of the beast. An adult male would weigh a ton; cows were just a little smaller, but both sexes ate and drank less than domesticated cattle, one display notes. It took the hides of 14 buffalo to cover a Sioux tipi, another exhibit reports.

"White Cloud," the famous albino buffalo seen as an omen for a new era, reigns over the herd at the National Buffalo Museum in Jamestown, North Dakota.

– Courtesy National Buffalo Museum –

Buffalo were one of the most consumed animals on the planet: their meat was eaten fresh and dried; their bones were crushed and boiled to make bone fat that was used like butter; their hides were tanned for leather and used for clothing, drums, tools, containers and moccasins.

The museum notes that one of the legacies of the Battle of Little Bighorn in 1876 was that it "ended the Western Sioux's ability to protect the buffalo." Sitting Bull led his tribe on its last buffalo hunt in 1883.

The museum's video on the history of the buffalo claims there was a national policy to kill the buffalo with the unthinkable slogan, "Every buffalo dead is an Indian gone," but that is not true. University of Oklahoma Professor David Dary, author of *The Buffalo Book*, tells *True West* there are many such stories, but it never was a national policy.

Today, North Dakota has four public herds, including one at the museum where the star attraction is White Cloud, the albino buffalo whose birth several years ago, according to Native legend, signaled the start of a new era in human development

The museum, which opened in 1993, is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, year round. There is a small admission charge. More information is available by calling the museum at 701-252-8648.

"As I grow older, I pay less attention to what men say. I just watch what they do."

- Andrew Carnegie

Western Museums

Color-coded guide to some of the best Western museums.

■ Art
■ Natural History
■ Native Americans

ARIZONA

Arizona Sonora Desert Museum ■
Tucson, 520-883-1380
www.desertmuseum.org

Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum
Bisbee, 520-432-7071
www.bisbeemuseum.org

Desert Caballeros Western Museum ■
Wickenburg, 928-684-2272
www.westernmuseum.org

Heard Museum
Phoenix, 602-252-8848
www.heard.org

Rex Allen Museum & Willcox Cowboy Hall of Fame
Willcox, 877-234-4111

CALIFORNIA

Autry Museum of Western Heritage ■ ■ ■
Los Angeles, 323-667-2000
www.autry-museum.org

COLORADO

Bent's Old Fort
La Junta, 719-384-2800
www.nps.gov/beol/

Black American West Museum
Denver, 303-292-2566
www.blackamericanwest.org

Buffalo Bill Museum & Grave
Golden, 303-526-0747
www.buffalobill.org

Leanin Tree Museum of Western Art ■
Boulder, 303-530-1442
www.leanintreemuseum.com

Museum of Northwest Colorado
Craig, 970-824-6360
www.museumnwco.org

Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame
Colorado Springs, 719-528-4764
www.prorodeo.com

GEORGIA

Booth Western Art Museum ■
Cartersville, 770-607-6361

IDAHO

Land of the Yankee Fork
Challis, 208-879-5244
www.idahoparks.org/parks/yankeefork.html

National Oregon-California Trail Center
Montpelier, 800-448-BEAR
www.oregontrailcenter.org

KANSAS

Boot Hill Museum
Dodge City, 620-227-8188

Coronado-Quivira Museum
Lyons, 620-257-3941
www.sckstourism.com/counties/cities/lyons.html

Dalton Gang Hideout & Museum
Meade, 800-354-2743

Fort Harker
Kanopolis, 785-472-3059

Fort Larned
Larned, 620-285-6911
www.nps.gov/fols/

Hodgden House Museum
Ellsworth, 785-472-3059

Morton County Historical Society Museum
Elkhart, 620-697-2833
www.mtcoks.com/museum/

Old Cowtown Museum
Wichita, 316-264-6398
www.old-cowtown.org

MINNESOTA

Beltrami County History Center
Bemidji, 218-444-3376

Brown County Historical Society
New Ulm, 507-233-2616
www.browncountyhistorymnusa.org

Minnesota History Center
St. Paul, 651-296-6126
www.mnhs.org

Pipestone County Museum ■
Pipestone, 507-825-2563
pipestoneminnesota.com/museum

Stearns History Museum
St. Cloud, 866-253-8424
www.stearns-museum.org

Treaty Site History Center
St. Peter, 507-934-2160

Wells Fargo History Museum
Minneapolis, 612-667-4210
www.wellsfargohistory.com

Winona County Historical Society ■ ■ ■
Winona, 507-454-2723
www.winona.msus.edu/historicalsociety/

Continued on page 94

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Continued from page 93

MISSOURI

Fort Osage
Sibley, 816-650-5737
www.historicfortosage.com

Jesse James Farm & Museum
Kearney, 816-628-6065

National Frontier Trails Center
Independence, 816-325-7575
www.frontiertrailscenter.com

Patee House Museum
St. Joseph, 816-232-8206

Pony Express Museum
St. Joseph, 800-530-5930

MONTANA

Custer Battlefield Museum
Garryowen, 406-638-1876
www.custermuseum.org

C.M. Russell Museum
Great Falls, 406-727-8787
www.cmrussell.org

NEBRASKA

Great Platte River Road Archway Monument
Kearney, 308-237-1000
www.archway.org

Harold Warp Pioneer Village
Minden, 800-445-4447
www.pioneervillage.org

Museum of the Fur Trade
Chadron, 308-432-3843
www.furtrade.org

NEW MEXICO

El Rancho de las Golondrinas
Santa Fe, 505-471-2261
www.golondrinas.org

Hubbard Museum
Ruidoso Downs, 505-378-4142
www.hubbardmuseum.com

Billy the Kid Museum
Fort Sumner, 505-355-2380

Las Vegas Museum
Las Vegas, 505-454-1401

Old Coal Mine Museum
Madrid, 505-438-3780
www.oldcoalminemuseum.com

Museum Association of Taos
(Kit Carson Home & Museum)
Taos, 505-758-0505
www.taosmuseums.org

NORTH DAKOTA

Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center
Washburn, 877-462-8535
www.fortmandan.com

OKLAHOMA

Chisholm Trail Heritage Center
Duncan, 580-252-6692
www.onthechisholmtrail.com

National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum
Oklahoma City, 405-478-2250
www.nationalcowboymuseum.org

OREGON

Champoeg State Heritage Area
St. Paul, 800-551-6949
www.oregonstateparks.org/park_113.php

Columbia Gorge Discovery Center
The Dalles, 541-296-8600
www.gorgediscovery.org

Four Rivers Cultural Center
Ontario, 888-211-1222
www.4rcc.com

High Desert Museum
Bend, 541-382-4754
www.highdesertmuseum.org

End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center
Oregon City, 503-657-9336
www.endoftheoregontrail.org

National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center
Baker City, 541-523-1843
oregontrail.blm.gov

Union County Museum
Union, 541-562-6003
www.ohwy.com/or/u/unionms.htm

TEXAS

American Quarter Horse Heritage Center & Museum
Amarillo, 806-376-5181
www.aqha.com/horse/museum/

Amon Carter Museum
Fort Worth, 817-738-1933
www.cartermuseum.org

Devil's Rope Museum
McLean, 806-779-2225
www.barbwiremuseum.com

Gish's Old West Museum
Fredericksburg, 830-997-2794
www.curtrich.com/fr.gish.html

King Ranch Museum
Kingsville, 361-595-1881
www.kingranch.com/museum.htm

Museum of the Southwest
Midland, 915-683-2882
www.museumsw.org

National Center for American Western Art
Kerrville, 830-896-2553
www.cowgirlmuseum.com

National Cowgirl Museum Hall of Fame
Fort Worth, 817-336-4475
www.cowgirl.net

National Ranching Heritage Center
Lubbock, 806-742-0498
www.ttu.edu/ranchingheritagecenter

Texas State History Museum
Austin, 866-369-7108
www.thestoryoftexas.com

Continued on page 96

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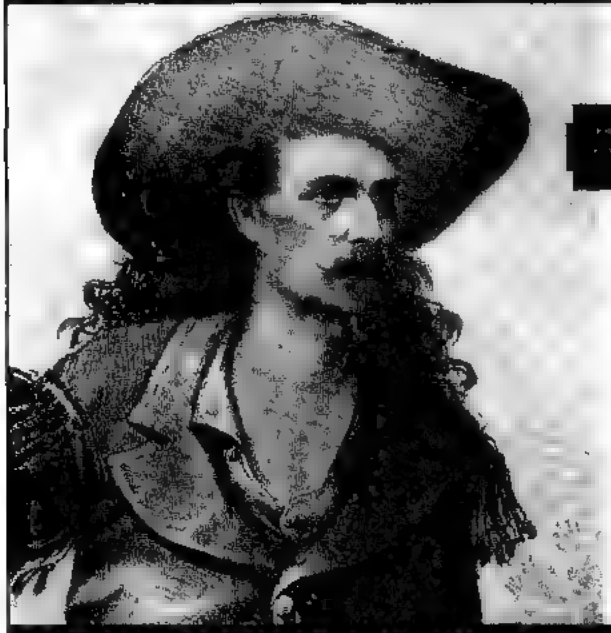
Two Amazing Reasons to Come to Cody, Wyoming!

Bill was Amazing!

See why William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody was the amazing phenomenon he was in the five museums of the Buffalo Bill Historical Center.



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Carl Rechtold Photo

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www.bbhc.org

CODY NIGHT RODEO
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http://encampment.1wyo.net/GEMuseum.html
Email: GEMuseum@aol.com

Grand Encampment Museum

CARBON COUNTY

Produced in cooperation with Carbon County Visitor's Council

Continued from page 94

Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum
Waco, 254-750-8631
www.texasranger.org

WASHINGTON

Fort Nisqually
Tacoma, 253-591-5339
www.fortnisqually.org

WISCONSIN

Watson's Wild West Museum
Elkhorn, 262-723-7505
www.watsonswildwestmuseum.com

WYOMING

Buffalo Bill Historical Center
Cody, 307-587-4771
www.bbhc.org

Fort Laramie
Fort Laramie, 307-837-2221
www.nps.gov/fola/

Grand Encampment Museum
Encampment, 307-327-5308
encampment.1wyo.net/GEMuseum.html

Museum of the Mountain Man
Pinedale, 877-686-6266
www.museumofthemountainman.com

National Historic Trails Center
Casper, 307-261-7700
www.wy.blm.gov/nhtic/

Old West Museum
Cheyenne, 307-778-7290
www.oldwestmuseum.org

Rock Springs Historical Museum
Rock Springs, 307-362-3138

Sweetwater County Historical Museum
Green River, 307-872-6435
www.sweetwatermuseum.org

Wyoming Territorial Prison Museum
Laramie, 800-845-2287
www.wyoprisonpark.org

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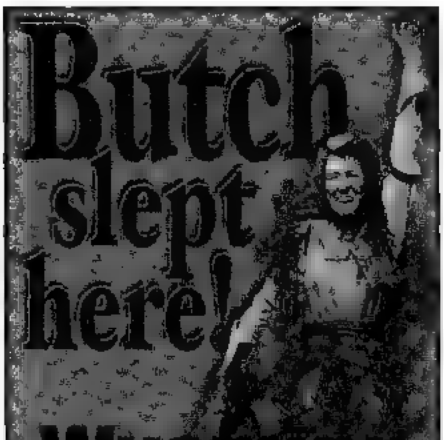

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DEROADS

BY JOHNNY D. BOGGS

The Navajo Long Walk Revisited

Navajo surrender forced by U S Army's "Scorched Earth Campaign."

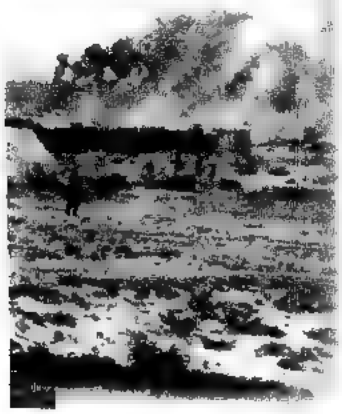
The sandstone landscape of Northeastern Arizona beckons for an audio version of a Tony Hillerman novel (make sure it's narrated by George Guidall if you want one for the road). Or you could just roll down your car window and listen to the wind. This is Navajo country: vast, barren, beautiful, haunting.

It's also historic and tragic.

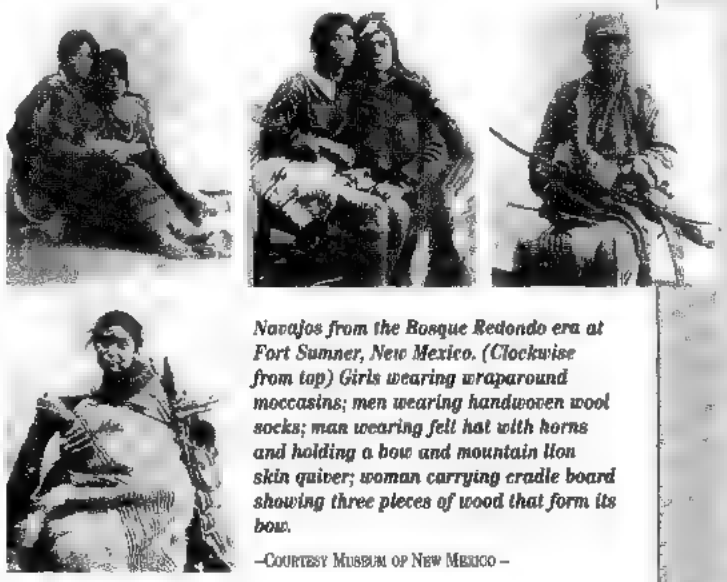
From 1846, when the United States took over what was then New Mexico Territory to the outbreak of the Civil War, Americans negotiated some half-dozen treaties with the Navajo Indians, but all were torn apart by violence. In 1863, Colonel Edward Canby decided the only way to end the hostilities was to crush the Navajos with a large army and force the tribe to relocate to a reservation far from its homeland. The campaign would be commanded by General James H. Carleton, who ordered frontiersman Kit Carson to lead volunteer troops into Canyon de Chelly and defeat the Navajos.

Carson's troops killed livestock and burned homes and crops—it became known as the "Scorched Earth Campaign"—until the Navajos, facing starvation, surrendered. The prisoners of war were held at Fort Canby (now Fort Defiance, Arizona) during the winter of 1863-64, then marched more than 300 miles to the desolate Bosque Redondo (Round Grove) at Fort Sumner, New Mexico.

Only the army wasn't prepared for the number of prisoners—approximately 8,000 Navajos (some estimates are as high as 9,000) and 500 Mescalero Apaches. Blankets and wagons were far too few. So was food, and the famished Indians were put on half rations. The soldiers divided the prisoners into six groups and drove them east at various intervals, but hundreds died along the way from malnutrition and disease. Many others were captured by renegades and sold into slavery.



Nor did the tragedy end after the prisoners reached Bosque Redondo. Malnutrition and dysentery claimed thousands of lives. By the time President Ulysses S. Grant ended the internment in 1868 and returned the Navajos to their homeland, more than 3,000 (some estimates say 4,000) of the captives had died.



Navajos from the Bosque Redondo era at Fort Sumner, New Mexico. (Clockwise from top) Girls wearing wraparound moccasins; men wearing handwoven wool socks; man wearing felt hat with horns and holding a bow and mountain lion skin quiver; woman carrying cradle board showing three pieces of wood that form its bow.

–Courtesy Museum of New Mexico –

The Navajos called it *Hwéeldi*, or The Long Walk. It's often overshadowed by the Cherokees' (and other Eastern tribes) Trail of Tears, but the Navajos' journey is coming to the forefront. In April 2001, Congressmen Tom Udall, D-New Mexico, Joe Skeen, R-New Mexico, Chris Cannon, R-Utah, and John Olvern, D-Massachusetts, introduced legislation to recognize and commemorate the Navajo Long Walk as a national historic trail. The Cherokee Trail of Tears received such a designation in 1987. After sailing through Congress, the Navajo Long Walk National Historic Trail Act was signed by President Bush on March 11, 2002.

The signs weren't up when I decided to follow the trail late last fall, and just where the signs will be located is up for debate. The army marched the

SIDE ROAD

Traveling in Navajo Country

Approximately 165,000 people live on the 25,000-square-mile Navajo reservation. When traveling through their country, be considerate and take note of the cultural differences. Eye contact is considered rude among the Navajos; touching is generally limited to family and friends and a strong handshake can be considered disrespectful. If you want to photograph or sketch an individual or someone's personal property, ask permission. Payment is expected. The removal of archeological items is against tribal and federal law, and alcohol is prohibited on the reservation.

SIDEROAD

Kit Carson's Taos

Most people think of Taos as a ski resort, Indian pueblo, art community or a hangout for society's dropouts, but it is also rich in Western history—and an easy drive from Santa Fe or Las Vegas.

Kit Carson, who led the force that conquered the Navajos, lived in Taos and is buried here. The Kit Carson Home & Museum is an excellent starting point, with three rooms restored and furnished as they may have appeared during Carson's residency. The others are filled with artifacts of the mountain man, Indian and Spanish eras. Carson is buried in Kit Carson Cemetery.

Other worthy stops include La Hacienda de los Martinez, a restored Spanish Colonial rancho; the Governor Bent House and Museum, home of Charles Bent; Taos Pueblo; and the San Francisco de Asis Church, painted by Georgia O'Keeffe and photographed by Ansel Adams. For lighter fare, drop in at Horsefeathers, next door to Carson's home, and peruse the store's collection of Western antiques and cowboy kitsch.

Information: 800-732-TAOS.

Indians on various trails, some through Cañon Blanco east of Albuquerque, others farther southeast on the Cañon Piedra Pintada Trail, and more up the mountains past Santa Fe to Fort Union, then down through Anton Chico.

At least the starting point is clear, as I head for one of the most underrated natural wonders in America.

Day 1: Canyon de Chelly to Gallup, N.M.

Although President Herbert Hoover established Canyon de Chelly (pronounced d-Shay) as a national monument in 1931, this is actually a partnership between the U.S. Government and the Navajo Nation, and unlike the scores of treaties before 1868, it has been successful. The Navajos, or *Diné* as they call themselves, occupy the land; the Department of the Interior protects the resources, cultural and natural.

My first stop is the visitor center, which includes a small museum and gift shop and shows a 22-minute video (in Navajo and English) about the canyon. A Navajo is selling his jewelry when I drop in, and I meet other artisans, selling everything from sand paintings to necklaces, at the various turn-offs along the spectacular drive.

The North Rim drive (best views in the morning) along Canyon del Muerto is a 34-mile round-trip, while the South Rim tour (best views in the afternoon) of Canyon de Chelly is a 37-mile round-trip. Entrance into the visitor center and monument is free, but trips into the canyon without a permit or guide are prohibited with the exception of the 2.5-mile round-trip White House Trail. Guided trips are available by horseback, vehicle or hiking.

If you're pressed for time, the rim views are excellent, as the canyon depth ranges from 30 to 1,000 feet. Still, there isn't much history about the Long Walk at Canyon de Chelly. Maybe that will change

After leaving Canyon de Chelly, I travel south on U.S. 191 to Hubbell Trading Post, a national historic site near Ganado.

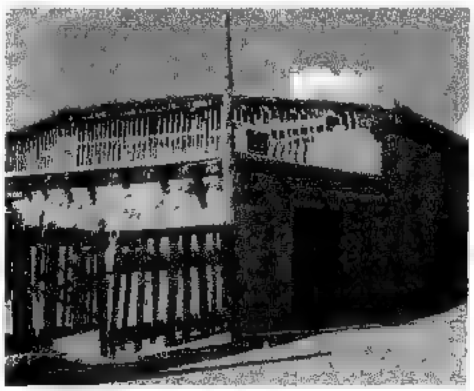
John Lorenzo Hubbell started his trading enterprise in 1876, but he was more than just a merchant. He wrote and translated letters, settled disputes and cared for the sick, helping the Navajos readjust after four horrific years at Bosque Redondo. Hubbell died in 1930 and was buried in an unmarked grave, per Navajo custom, on a hill overlooking his trading post.

The post (actually part of a compound that includes Hubbell's home, barn, corrals, stone bunkhouse, Navajo hogan and other structures) hasn't changed much since Hubbell's day. Locals and tourists drop in—speaking English, Navajo, even foreign languages—to peruse the jewelry room, rug room and "bullpen." Two elderly Navajo women weave rugs at the post's visitor center.

From Hubbell's, I head east to Window Rock (Fort Defiance is just northwest of the Navajo capital), where the Navajo Museum features exhibits, library and a children's museum. With nightfall quickly falling, I push into New Mexico, then south on U.S. 666 to Gallup.

Established in 1881, the town was named after David Gallup, an Atlantic and Pacific Railroad employee who set up a payroll office here. It's more neon than Western these days, more Route 66 than Long Walk, but the native influence cannot be overlooked. The downtown along Route 66 and Coal Avenue features several galleries and trading posts, and the Gallup Cultural Center includes a gallery, museum, Kiva Cinema, gift shop and cafe.

The best starting place for Gallup's history is the Rex Museum, a circa-1900 hotel on Route 66. When you're ready to call it a night, hang your hat at the circa-1937 El Rancho Hotel & Motel. Built by film director D.W. Griffith's brother, the hotel served as headquarters for several mediocre movies filmed in New Mexico, including 1940's *The Bad Man* with Ronald Reagan and 1964's *The Hallelujah Trail* with Burt Lancaster. Well, it was also headquarters to at least one good flick—1950's *The Big Carnival* (also called *Ace in the Hole*) with Kirk Douglas.



A friend to the Navajos following their time at Bosq Redondo, John Hubbell is buried in an unmarked gr near this trading post that he started in 18

– Courtesy Johnny D. Bosc

Day 2: Gallup to Santa Fe/Las Vegas

The dreary journey of the Navajos continued east along what is now Interstate 40. It's still remote, so chances are you won't

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find a signal for your cell phone. At exit 126, the trail turned southeast on Highway 6 to Los Lunas along the Rio Grande and Interstate 25.

Now it's north on I-25 to Albuquerque, New Mexico's largest city. The best museum here isn't about Navajos, but the atom bomb (National Atomic Museum at Kirtland Air Force Base). Collectors of Western antiques, however, will enjoy Cowboys and Indians on Central Avenue.

Most of the Long Walk trails divided around this point, through Tijeras to Galisteo and Anton Chico, straight across to Fort Sumner, or up the mountain trail toward Las Vegas (New Mexico, not Nevada; it's amazing how many tourists make that mistake). Heading straight to Fort Sumner is one option, but you're better served driving north on I-25. You can stop for the day at Santa Fe, or drive an hour farther to Las Vegas, the rough-hewn burg that was frequented by Western notables, such as Doc Holliday, Dave Rudabaugh, John Chisum and Billy the Kid.

Day 3: Santa Fe/Las Vegas to Fort Sumner

In either case, the next stop is 26 miles north of Las Vegas: Fort Union National Monument, once the Southwest's largest military installation but now it is the site of a visitor center, museum and crumbling ruins. Two forts had been established here (1851-61 and 1861-62) before Carleton started construction of the third fort in 1863, the same year the Navajo campaign began. The fort wasn't finished until 1870.

Many soldiers who participated in the "Scorched Earth Campaign" were stationed at Fort Union, and some Navajos marched here before beginning the final leg to Fort Sumner.

After touring the ruins and small museum, I backtrack down I-25 past Las Vegas and take the U.S. 84 exit toward Santa Rosa. The Navajos traveled through this rugged country to the town of Anton Chico, another hangout of Billy the Kid.

Anton Chico is a worthy photo-op because of the San José Church, a twin-steeple adobe where many Lincoln

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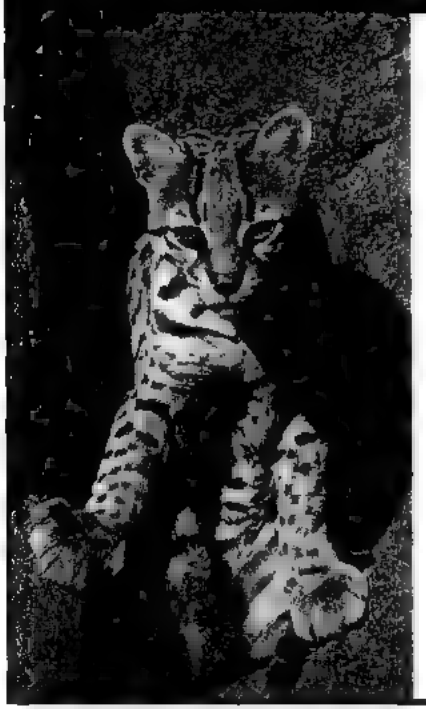

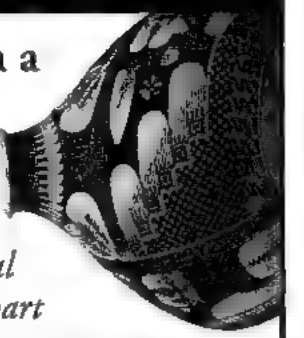

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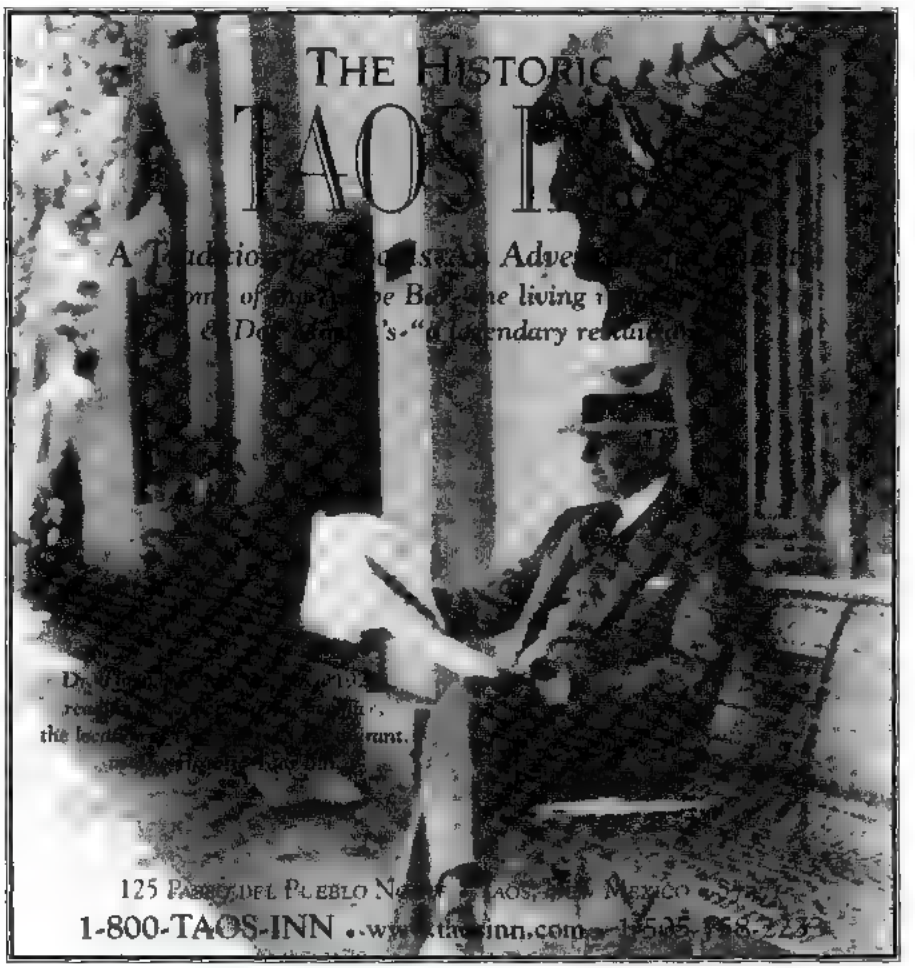

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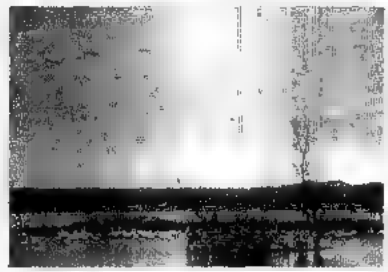

Bosque del Apache.

– COURTESY JOHNNY D. BOGGS –

Bosque del Apache

Established in 1939, the 57,191-acre Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge south of Socorro is one of the best places in the Southwest to view migratory birds and other wildlife. But soak in the history while you're looking for sandhill cranes. Piro Indians settled along this forest beside the Rio Grande 700 years ago, before being driven out by Apaches and disease in the 1600s. Explorers, traders, hunters, soldiers and settlers later traveled through here along El Camino Real, the "Royal Road," from Mexico to Santa Fe.

Information: 505-835-1828.

County War historians believe Pat Garrett married Apolonaria Gutierrez and Barney Mason married Juanita Madril. Sallie Chisum's wedding also took place here.

From Anton Chico, it's on to I-40 and east past Santa Rosa, then south again on U.S. 84 to Puerto de Luna and Fort Sumner, the final resting place—sorry Brushy Bill fans—of Billy the Kid.

It was also the final resting place for many Navajos.

Fort Sumner and Bosque Redondo lie in the hot, humid, low plains along the Pecos River, the antithesis of the Navajos' homeland. Wood was scarce in 1864, water from the river not potable and the army still hadn't solved its food shortage.

Comanches frequently raided the prisoners, and instead of allowing the Navajos to build shelters for themselves, the army made them construct adobe walls for the fort. Four years later, the United States admitted its mistake.

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San Jose Church in Anton Chico.

– Courtesy Johnny D. Boggs

On June 1, 1868, another treaty was signed at Fort Sumner, and the Navajos were allowed to return home (by then, most Mescaleros had already escaped). The fort was abandoned, put up for auction and bought by Lucien B. Maxwell. In 1881, Pat Garrett again put Fort Sumner on the historical map by killing Billy the Kid in Pete Maxwell's home.

Now a state monument, Fort Sumner recalls the plight of the Navajos with a museum, but the most moving testimonial is Treaty Rock. This 20-ton sandstone boulder, with a commemorative plaque on the east side, came from Fort Defiance and was dedicated by then-Navajo Nation president, Peterson Zah, on Treaty Day, June 1, 1994.

The fort's museum is too small to detail the Navajos' tragic history; however, that oversight is being corrected. Plans are in the works to build a $4.6 million memorial to tell the story of the Long Walk.

It's a story that needs to be told, and it's a renegade road that needs to be traveled.

Johnny D. Boggs is a novelist, photographer and freelance writer based in Santa Fe.

SIDE ROAD

Where to Dine

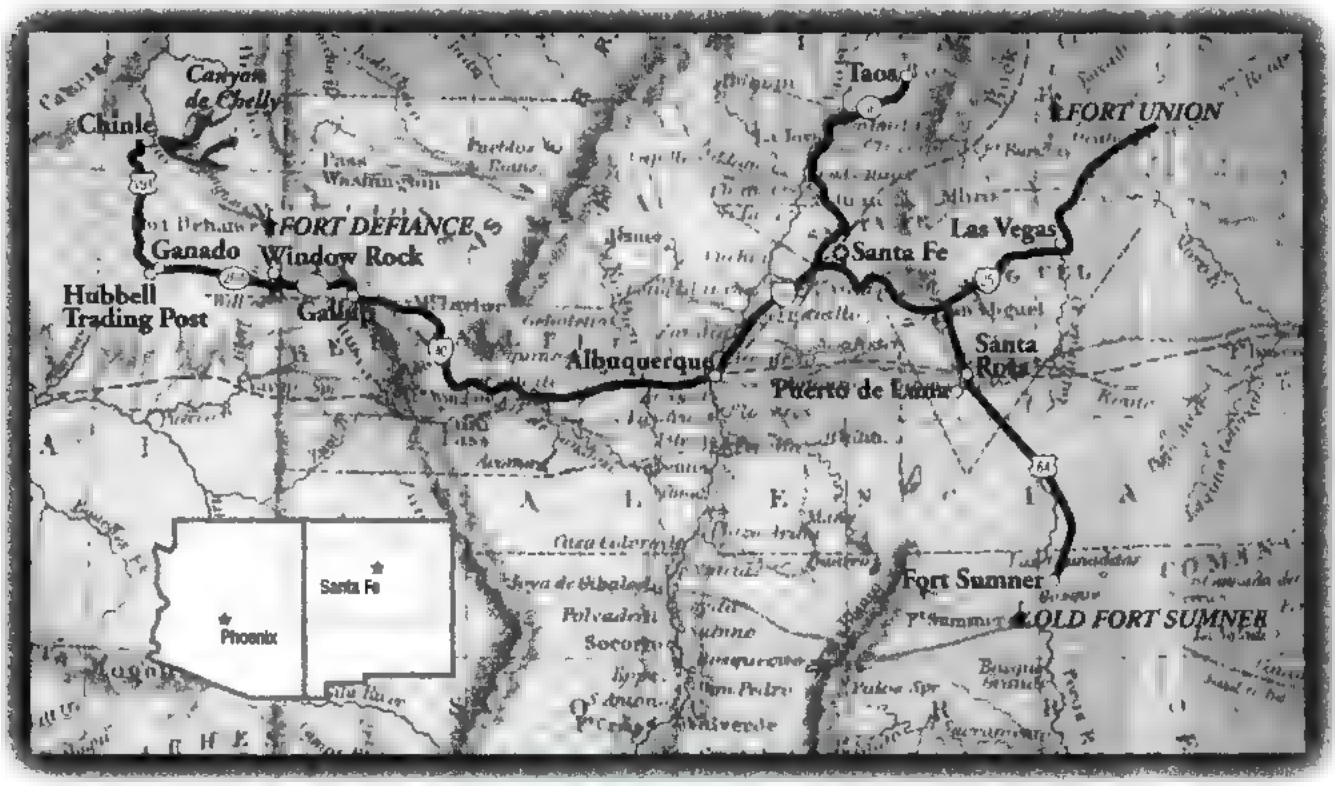
Ranch Kitchen, Gallup; **Scalo,** Albuquerque; **The Bull Ring,** Santa Fe; **Harry's Road House,** Santa Fe; **Murphey's,** Las Vegas; **Hillcrest Restaurant,** Las Vegas; **Fred's Restaurant & Lounge,** Fort Sumner; **Addison Drugs,** Fort Sumner; **Sprout's Cafe,** Fort Sumner.

Where to Stay

Thunderbird Lodge, Canyon de Chelly; **El Rancho Hotel & Motel,** Gallup; **La Fonda Hotel,** Santa Fe; **Inn of the Anasazi,** Santa Fe; **Plaza Hotel,** Las Vegas; **Super 8 Motel,** Fort Sumner.

Where to Shop

Hubbell Trading Post, Ganado; **Navajo Spirit,** Gallup; **Shush Yaz Trading Co.,** Gallup; **Cowboys and Indians,** Albuquerque; **Manitou Gallery,** Santa Fe; **Lucchese,** Santa Fe; **Sherwood's Spirit of America,** Santa Fe; **Plaza Antiques,** Las Vegas; **Billy the Kid Museum,** Fort Sumner.



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BY CORINNE BROWN

The Gamut

The Western look covers a lot of territory

The West is big, but Western Style is even bigger. All over the world, the West is interpreted in a wide variety of gear and panache. You could say it runs the gamut (thus the name). Here is a cavalcade of Western clothing, snapped at shows and in the backwoods. If you have a photo of Western Style, send it and a caption to us at *True West*.

– Courtesy Paramount

– By Sage Laughren –

– By BBB

By BBB

– By John Beckett –

– Courtesy Cowboy Nation –

PHOTOS ON LEFT SIDE, FROM TOP:

Paul Newman's naughtiness creases into the button-down Western shirt and jeans he wore in* Hud*; near Tombstone, Arizona, Shan Baldwin's (left) Patricia Wolf red suede leather skirt is biased-cut and her fringed brown leather top has tainted designs of triangles and beads. Deanne Giago's Patricia Wolf turquoise suede leather skirt has knee-length fringes, her shoulder-fringed jacket has double silver buttons, with tainted designs of horses, stars and squares; Anna Braga-Pelletier meets Wild Bill Hickok look-alike Thadd Turner in Tombstone, Arizona; the Kinman Brothers of Cowboy Nation in modern grungy cowboy style.

PHOTOS ON RIGHT SIDE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:

Stacy Halford, a* True West *rodeo cowgirl, shaking out a loop of cactus rebel rope, while wearing Cruel Girl jeans with a Hyo Silver buckle; actor Buck Taylor wearing a hat by Bronco Sue, shirt, vest, coat, tie and wild rag by Old Frontier Clothing, pants and boots by Tombstone Outfitters and gunleather by G.D'Ambrose Custom Saddles; Kathy and Keith Klump, the Real Thing Couple wearing Willcox Commercial garb at Warren Earp Days in Willcox, Arizona.

BY RICHARD H. DILLON

Hawaii's Wild West

Take a day trip to the Parker Ranch.

Easterners are always astounded by the size of Western cattle ranches. Will Rogers said, "There is single ranches here bigger than France . . . saddle horse pastures big as Alsace Lorraine."

The King Ranch in South Texas remains king, despite Arizona's boast that its Hash Knife outfit once ran 60,000 head on two million acres. Other rivals were New Mexico's Maxwell grant and Bell Ranch, the land-grant *ranchos* of Mexican California and the Miller-Lux complex occupying most of California's San Joaquin Valley. Today's greatest rival to the King Ranch sits on the extreme edge of the Wild West—on the big island of Hawaii.

Parker Ranch looks more like old rural California than the isle's volcanic coast, with its coconut palms, casuarina trees and keawe thickets. Dotted with beaver-tailed prickly pear, the Southwest's botanical trademark, Parker Ranch climbs the slopes of Mauna Kea, an extinct volcano (the world's highest mountain, 32,000 ft., if measured from its base on the Pacific Ocean floor, rather than from sea level).

Today, John Palmer Parker's ranch is 225,000 acres versus Richard King's 825,000. The ranches are about the same age. Parker jumped ship in the Sandwich Islands in 1809 when he was barely 19, and was granted the ranch in 1847 by Kamehameha III after Parker—a *haole* or white man—married Kipikane, a chief's daughter. His ranch headquarters, Mana Hale, with its rich koa wood and family heirlooms, is open for tours, as is his 1862 homestead, Puopelu, with its French art collection.

A paniolo rounding up cattle at Parker Ranch.

– PHOTO BY JOHN RUSSELL –

Hawaii's Cowboy History

Captain George Vancouver dropped off a Spanish bull and cow from California in 1793. King Kamehameha I placed a *kapu* on killing their progeny and soon wild cattle swarmed over Hawaii. When the cattle began frightening *kanaka* farmers, the King removed the prohibition and hunters killed the bullocks for meat and hides, worth $1.00 each in San Francisco.

Some hunters dug pit traps instead of using muskets. One hunter, an escaped Australian felon, robbed botanist David Douglas (of the Douglas fir) before shoving him into a pit where he was trampled to death by a trapped bull. (Grab a guide and four-wheel-drive Jeep to find the doctor's pit.)

In the 1830's, Kamehameha III recruited California *vaqueros* to rope cattle for domestication. Vaqueros Ramón, Lozada and Kossuth, a non-Hispanic expert with the *lazo* (lasso), taught native Hawaiians to ride, rope and herd. Since islanders called all Mexican-Californians Spaniards, island cowboys were called *paniolos*, a bastardization of *españoles*, meaning Spaniards.

Hawaii's most famous *paniolos* were Ikua (Ike) Purdy and his father, Wilham. Ikua won the 1908 world's championship roping contest in Cheyenne, Wyoming. His dad was another "champion," but at driving 100 to 150 head of cattle to the ranch for slaughter. Today, about 25 *paniolos* tend 35,000 head of grazing stock. Their big rodeo is held each July 4.

Richard H. Dillon is a professor of history with the Fromm Institute at the University of San Francisco.

SIDE ROAD

Hawaii

Lodging: Stay at Mauna Kea or Mauna Lani when tanning on Kohala's beaches. When snorkeling in Kona, make the Kamehameha your home. Or stay at the Keauhou Beach Resort on Kahaluu Bay, an ideal spot for beginning snorkelers.

Grub *(kaukau)*: Join the locals at the Ocean View on Kailua's main drag. Try waffles with coconut syrup, fresh papaya, guava juice and Kona coffee for breakfast. For lunch, order a bowl of *saimin* (Japanese noodle soup) plus grilled *ahi* (fresh tuna) with sticky rice.

Recreation: Parker Ranch's Museum and Visitor Center in Waimea offers horseback riding, ballooning, covered wagon rides and wild boar hunting. Go past the museum to the ancient Puukohala *heiau* (temple) and explore the petroglyph field.

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- Ethel Barrymore

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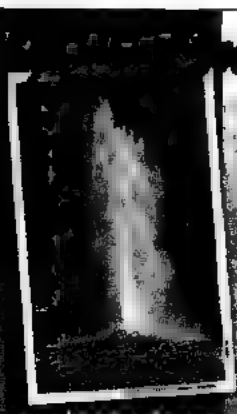

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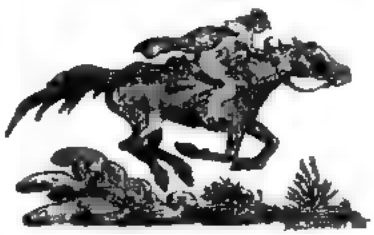

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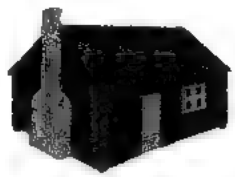

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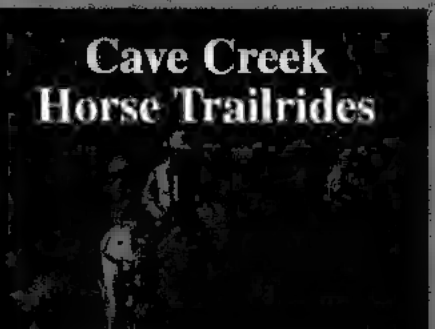

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NONFICTION

COWGIRL PIN-UPS

EDITED BY ANN GRANNING BENNETT, INTRODUCTION BY MAX ALLAN COLLINS, COLLECTORS PRESS, 32 PAGES, $11.95, SOFTCOVER.

The introduction isn't as revealing as the 14 scantily clad cowgirls from the 1940s and '50s—in fact, Collins' early history is sophomoric and error-prone, but who reads the text anyway? While the pastels and oils collected here are not insignificant, they are still light years from George Catlin, making *Cowgirl Pin-ups* appealing primarily to appreciators of cowboy kitsch . . . or teenage boys. —JOHNNY D. BOGGS

FATHER FRANCIS M. CRAFT: MISSIONARY TO THE SIOUX

THOMAS W. FOLEY, UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA PRESS, 195 PAGES, $45.00, HARDCOVER.

Chances are that none of us can name a *padre* of the Old West, except for California's Serra and the Pacific Northwest's DeSmet. Craft, virtually unknown, was an aggressive priest at the Rosebud and Standing Rock Agencies. He quarreled with Protestant rivals, the Catholic hierarchy and some Sioux. Yet, his compassion and empathy won over the Sioux when he fought to protect them from greedy civilians and corrupt agents. Craft's work wasn't dramatic—'til 1890. When he intervened in the Battle of Wounded Knee, the peacemaker was stabbed by a Sioux and wounded by an army shell fragment. Although later he continued to side with the Indians, he insisted they had opened fire first in his attempt to exonerate the cavalry from charges of committing a massacre. —RICHARD B. DILLON

THE GREAT ENTERTAINER: THE OFFICIAL COOKBOOK OF THE BUFFALO BILL HISTORICAL CENTER

BUFFALO BILL HISTORICAL CENTER, 267 PAGES, $24.95, HARDCOVER.

Food fare from the American West is the theme of this new version of *The Great Entertainer*. Over 500 recipes, from soups to entrees, will entice your appetite. While all recipes use modern cooking methods, the taste of the Old West is definitely sprinkled in. Still, I can't swallow "John Wayne's Chili-Cheese Souffle" recipe. The Duke just had to be a meat and potatoes kind of guy. —LINDA WOMMACK

THE FORGOTTEN FOUNDERS: RETHINKING THE HISTORY OF THE OLD WEST

STEWART L. UDALL, ISLAND PRESS, 237 PAGES, $25.00, HARDCOVER.

Progress flourishes in this tribute to Native Americans and Western settlers, from 16th-century Spanish missionaries to 19th-century wagon families. Although Udall praises the founders' bootstrap efforts to build Western communities, he chastises self-serving 49ers who left behind only ghost towns. It may be tempting to fast-forward the smaller accomplishments in American history to get to the hectic Wild West spectacles, but Udall's book makes us rethink the legacies we value. —MEGHAN SAAR

BUTCH CASSIDY WAS HERE: HISTORIC INSCRIPTIONS OF THE COLORADO PLATEAU

JAMES H. KNIPMEYER, UNIVERSITY OF UTAH PRESS, 169 PAGES, $24.95, SOFTCOVER.

When does graffiti become history? Back East, there's Daniel Boone's terse note on a beech tree that he'd just killed a "Bar." Knipmeyer's 25-year search along the Colorado Plateau has yielded over 1,500 similar petroglyphs, including Butch Cassidy's moniker. This one-of-a-kind book has photos of 200 historical inscriptions and a map for pictograph hunters following the author by auto or armchair through the Southern Utah-Northern Arizona treasure trove. —BILL GARWOOD

GOLD RUSH: THE BLACK HILLS STORY

EDITED BY JOHN D. McDERMOTT, SOUTH DAKOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESS, 144 PAGES, $17.95, SOFTCOVER.

The Black Hills' gold rush of 1874 has always taken a

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True West reviews Books, Movies and Music.

backseat (maybe even a rumble seat) to California's 1849 gold rush. Yet, this great story adds a third dimension—history—to a traveler's appreciation of the striking Dakota landscape. Most interesting is the army's early ambivalence. While the rank and file dutifully ejected trespassing miners from the Hills granted to the Sioux by treaty, politicized army brass like Custer, Crook and Sheridan were pushing for cession and settlement. Theft of the sacred Black Hills, reserved "forever" for the Sioux, had more than a little to do with Custer's "payback time" at the Little Bighorn. —RICHARD H. DILLON

JOHN H. BEHAN: SACRIFICED SHERIFF

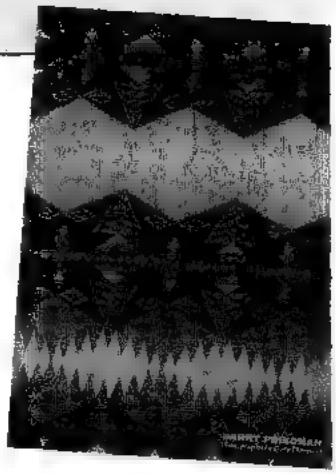
BOB ALEXANDER, HIGH-LONESOME BOOKS, 310 PAGES, $30.00, HARDCOVER.

Continual subjection to Wyatt Earp myths has caused the public to view Sheriff John Behan as a foil for the Earp faction during the O.K. Corral gunfight in Tombstone. But Behan had a long life of honorable public service, and his story has never been told better than in this detailed biography. With sound documentation, copious notes and logical reasoning, the author follows Behan's life as an Indian fighter, sheriff, Arizona legislator, Rough Riders volunteer, U.S. Customs inspector, railroad policeman and everything in between. The book is an alternate look at a man sacrificed for the glorification of the Earp legend.
—CRUCK LEWIS

BRAVO OF THE BRAZOS: JOHN LARN OF FORT GRIFFIN, TEXAS

ROBERT K. DeARMENT, UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA PRESS, 224 PAGES, $29.95, HARDCOVER.

John Larn once declared "I believe that if a man was to shoot me through the heart, I would kill that man before I died." A colorful frontier sheriff and dreaded vigilante chieftain, Larn mirrored the fate of Henry Plummer, another lawman who fell from grace. DeArment asks, "What makes a Bad Man?" before he tracks the career of this dashing rancher and lawman, whose Jekyll-Hyde personality was formed after learning the crookedest man with a gun rode away to live another day. That, and a growing lack of scruples, kept John Larn alive until his vigilante outrages brought about his downfall and death. This case study in evil makes for rousing good reading. —BILL GARWOOD



CHASING RAINBOWS: COLLECTING AMERICAN INDIAN TRADE & CAMP BLANKETS

BARRY FRIEDMAN, BULFINCH PRESS, 304 PAGES, $50.00, HARDCOVER

This handsome coffeetable book explodes with beautiful photographs and meticulous research. In 1911, the Beacon Manufacturing Company "manufactured" Native American blankets specifically for the Indian market. A unique concept at the time, these "camp blankets" are now worth a fortune. Covering everything from particular designs to explicit weaving patterns, this thorough study was over 30 years in the making. *Chasing Rainbows* is a great tool for the serious collector.
—LINDA WOMMACK

THE INDIAN FRONTIER, 1763–1846

R. DOUGLAS HURT, UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO PRESS, 190 PAGES, $21.95, SOFTCOVER.

Here is a history-in-brief of Indian-white frontier relations from the close of the French and Indian War to the outbreak of the Mexican War. Hurt discusses the roles of Spaniards, English (after they defeated the French) and Westering Americans. Although his focus is the Old West from the Appalachians to the Pacific, he includes Andy Jackson's Creek War. But, inexplicably, he leaves out the Semunoles' role in Indian removal and neglects to include the longest of our Indian conflicts, Florida's three-part Seminole War. Aside from these gaps, the coverage of this book is good. —RICHARD H. DILLON

RODEO: BEHIND THE SCENES OF AMERICA'S MOST EXCITING SPORT

LYNN CAMPION, LYONS PRESS, 237 PAGES, $29.95, HARDCOVER.

If you love rodeo or are new to this most Western of all events, this is the book to own. With breathtaking color photography and crisp, well-informed prose, Lynn Campion's book reveals how a rodeo is put together and how rodeo competitors and animals prepare for a big show. Even if you've never seen so much as a film clip of a rodeo, this book will have you buying tickets. —BRIAN MURPHY

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MILES HOOD SWARTHOUT, FORGE BOOKS, 304 PAGES, $25.95, HARDCOVER.

The author is best known for his screenplay of *The Shootist* (John Wayne's last movie), adapted from the novel by Swarthout's father, the brilliant Glendon Swarthout, who died in 1992. Another combined talent—the son's first novel was inspired by his dad's 1959 short story, "The Attack on the Mountain"—in this richly detailed account of the Apache Wars. —JOHNNY D. BOGGS

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Iris Houck and her crippled brother Cal must save their Arizona ranch from Rafe Benedict, who holds the lease to their grazing lands. With their parents dead, they turn to Iris' reluctant ex-suitor for help in rounding up their stock. At the heart of the story is the Iron Horse, the leader of the horse herd and sure to its best prospects. The shootings, kidnappings and feats of derring-do will appeal to young readers as horse and adventurers meet the challenge. —CHUCK LEWIS

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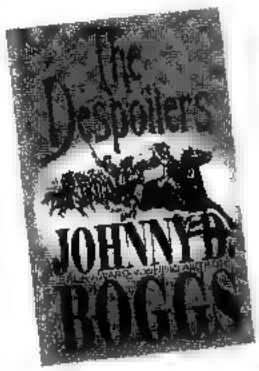
JOHNNY D. BOGGS, FIVE STAR, 269 PAGES, $24.95, HARDCOVER.

Augustin Drummond swore he'd not revolt against his King again. Yet, that changed when he was beaten by Tory raiders and joined Francis Marion's rag-tag horsemen. From then on, it was ride, raid and retreat. When all was over, Drummond returned to the forests and the woman he loved. But the Swamp Fox had the last word, "We are soldiers, and, as such, are all despoilers." Boggs' historical asides are aided by a narrative style that drives the story along full gallop.



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DON COLDSMITH, FORGE BOOKS, 224 PAGES, $22.95, HARDCOVER.

For those new to Spur Award-winning Don Coldsmith's works, this reprint of the second book in his acclaimed Spanish Bit Saga is a superb introduction. He tells a riveting story of when the horse—the elk-dog—was first introduced to the American Indian just before the West was changed forever by the white man. Western writing—any writing—just doesn't get much better than this. —BRIAN MURPHY

MOVIE

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UNIVERSAL/MALPASO, 1972, VHS AND DVD

Set amid an Anglo-Mexican American land war at the turn of the 20th century, the film disappointed critics despite employing the talent of Hollywood veterans John Sturges (director), Clint Eastwood (in the title role), Robert Duvall (a corrupt land baron) and John Saxon (a Mexican-American guerrilla). The improbable shoot-out finale features Eastwood driving a train into a saloon. —R.G. ROBERTSON

MUSIC

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SONS OF THE PIONEERS, SOUNDIES/BLOODSHOT REVIVAL, 2001

After a well received tour in 1940, the Sons of the Pioneers were signed to produce 200 studio transcriptions that were released to radio stations. For the first time on CD are 25 of these recordings, featuring the cutting-edge harmonic yodeling of Bob Nolan, Tim Spencer and Lloyd Perryman, and comic Pat Brady on bass, Hugh Farr on fiddle and Karl Farr's single-note guitar leads. –GUS WALKER

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GUY CLARK, SUGAR HILL RECORDS, 2002.

Like the guitars he hand builds, Guy Clark has crafted rough-hewn and stripped-down lyrics. The anger he feels at someone shooting his dog resonates in "Queenie's Song," as does the lighthearted joy in "She Loves to Ride Horses." His tip of the hat to his late friend, Townes Van Zant, with the song "Rex's Blues," rounds out Clark's musical craftsmanship. —LARRY JOHNS

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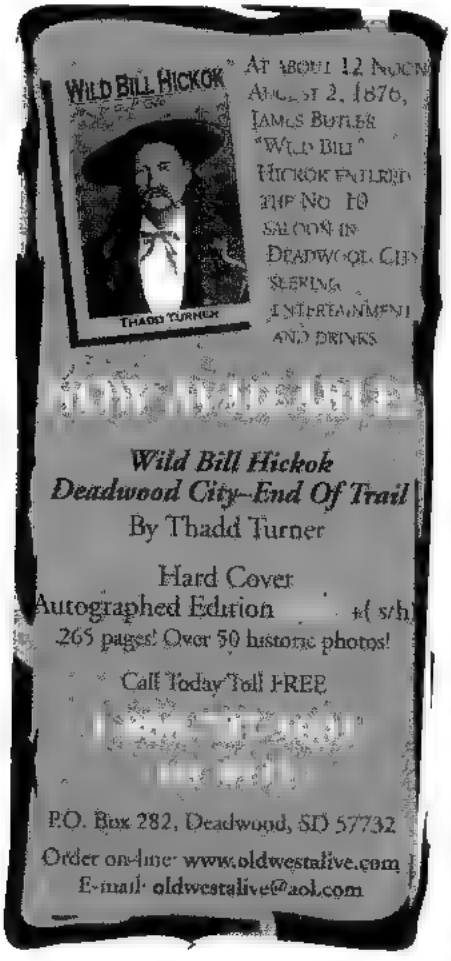
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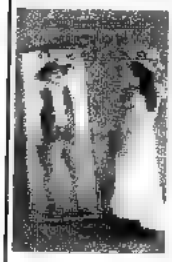

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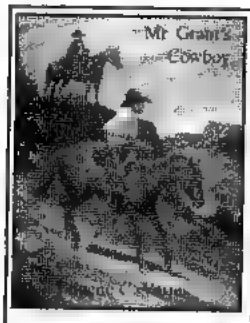

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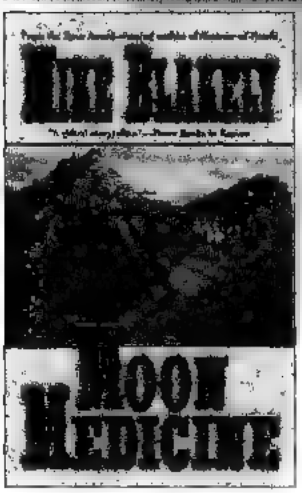

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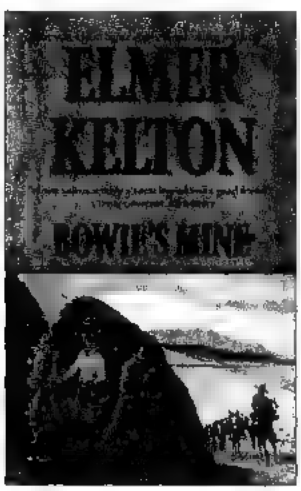

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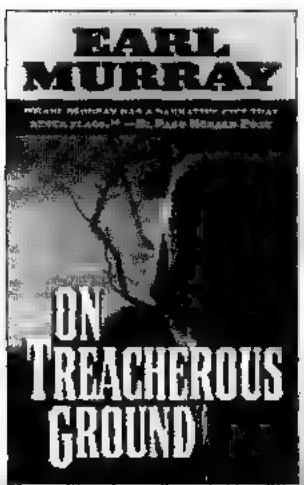

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—*Publishers Weekly*

BY CANDY MOULTON

Writing with a Gun in Each Hand

Loren Estleman.

You could say that Loren Estleman writes with a gun in each hand. He favors a Deane Adams five-shot for his deputy marshals, such as Page Murdock, and a .38 Smith and Wesson Chief's Special for his mystery characters, such as Amos Walker.

With 50 published books, more under contract and four Spurs from Western Writers of America, three Shamuses from Private Eye Writers of America and three Western Heritage Awards from the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, Estleman has earned his reputation as one of the foremost writers in not one, but two genres.

While he says his first choice is to write Westerns, Estleman easily switches to mysteries. In a sense, he's like a farmer who allows the ground to lie fallow before replanting. By giving the land a chance to rest, his next crop will be healthier and more productive.

As a result, Estleman routinely switches from characters wearing Stetsons to those preferring Fedoras. Though I can't say I've ever seen him wear either, he has been known to smoke a stogie as do some of his best characters. And on occasion, he'll tip a bottle like a Western cowboy.

Two of Estleman's most enduring creations are Amos Walker, a Detroit investigator and hero of his mystery series, and Page Murdock, a hard-hitting deputy marshal.

Page Murdock came about when Estleman wrote *The High Rocks*, a book about a mountain man, loosely based on Liver Eatin' Johnson, who declares war on the Flathead Indian nation during one of the worst winters ever in the Bitterroot Mountains. "The mountain man wasn't going to be literate enough to tell the story," Estleman recalls, "and by the end of the third page, there was Page Murdock, born fully grown."

Deputy Marshal Murdock, a lawless lawman who tames the frontier for the federal court of Harlan A. Blackthorne, has been in eight Estleman books, including his most recent, *Port Hazard*, due out from Forge Books later this year.

One of his most challenging books to write is also the one that launched him to the forefront of Western writers: *Bloody Season*, a historical novel about Wyatt Earp, which won Estleman his first Spur award.

"I like to talk about [Earp] because I think he gave me the greatest challenge," Estleman says. "The first rule of fiction is that your characters must be consistent [and] people are far from consistent. I had a heck of a time trying to figure out Wyatt Earp's motivations. He can be presented as a hero, as he was for so many years, and he can be presented as a villain."

Loren Estleman.
– By Deborah Morgan

Earp's own writings and comments make it clear that he "saw himself as a robber baron." Estleman adds, ". . . and he would go to the places where a lot of the money was to be made and he would nail down the money-making opportunities."

Earp mined and gambled in places like Tombstone and Alaska. Since in many areas of the West, men could carry a gun only if they were law officers, "it finally struck me, [Earp] became a lawman so he could protect his business interests," Estleman says.

"I have to credit Richard Wheeler with this [book]. He was the one who told me I ought to try my hand with the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral. It also struck me that nobody had really attempted to tell the true story in a historical novel. I now understand why nobody wanted to do it . . . because of the complexities."

Candy Moulton, a regular *True West* contributor, knows it's not wise to tip a bottle with Loren Estleman . . . or with his writer wife, Deborah Morgan.

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In feudalism, it's your count that votes."

- Old Vaquero saying

Finest

In Each Issue We Profile Some Of The Finest Purveyors Of The Old West.

Wm. Brown Holster Co.

Leatherwork is in Bill Brown's bloodline. He began learning the craft when he was 12, after inheriting the leather tools his grandfather had used around the turn of the 20th century. And after a lifetime of study with saddle makers and other artisans, Bill is still learning today, calling it "a never ending process." In addition to his grandfather, Bill's next biggest inspiration is Cowboy Hall of Fame inductee and family friend, Bob Brown of Hollywood, who made holsters for William Boyd's Hopalong Cassidy character and John Wayne.

Bill's custom-made saddles are sure to give you the comfortable ride you deserve.

– Courtesy Wm. Brown Holster Co. –

After working many years as a farrier, Bill started his holster company in 1985 in Colorado and then relocated the business to Tombstone, Arizona, in 1998, placing it across the street from the O.K. Corral. His wife, Barbara, used to make chaps and leather clothing, but now is kept busy waiting on customers and managing the business.

Bill credits his success with his "exacting detail" and his never-ending quest for "perfection." Whether recreating a historical holster, chaps, saddle or saddlebags, he strives to make them look as close to the original pieces as possible. This has caused him to recreate tools that were used to make the originals.

Skilled artisan Colin Taylor ensures the company's leatherworks are as close to the original as possible.

– Courtesy Wm. Brown Holster Co. –

Such dedication has brought Bill more than a livelihood. His artistry is on display in a number of museums and is sought by collectors in the U.S. and abroad. Having grown up "Western," Bill didn't look upon his lifestyle as unique. Only after he had started producing and selling Western artifacts to the public did he "realize the hunger people had for the life [he and Barbara] were living."

David Ellis Canvas Products

Dave Ellis doesn't pretend to be a cowboy. Rather, he describes himself as a transplanted "seamstress from New Jersey." As a tent and tipi maker, Dave is a member of an old industry, one that traces its roots back to antiquity and counts among its members the Apostle Paul, who worked with tent makers over 2,000 years ago.

Dave Ellis, shown here with his wife Kelly, has made cowboy tipis for movie stars and the titans of business.

– Courtesy David Ellis Canvas Products –

When Dave was 16, he fled New Jersey's concrete for a "country lifestyle." After several years in New England, he "stumbled through Durango, Colorado," in 1978 and knew he had found a home. Four years later, he began working at an upholstery shop, and then in 1992 launched Dave Ellis Canvas Products. Although canvas awnings, boat covers, tarps and pond liners made up the bulk of his early product offerings, Dave soon began making custom tents, finding an eager market among Colorado's ranchers and cowboys, people, in Dave's words, who "don't have that Wal-Mart mentality."

Sleeping on the ground doesn't get any better when you're nestled inside a Cavalry Bedroll.

– Courtesy David Ellis Canvas Products –

Today, his most popular items are his 10-foot Range Tent (cowboy tipi) and Cavalry Bedroll (an updated version of the old military bedroll), products that "are the result of the needs of the outdoorsman and the skill of a seamstress." Dave's wife, Kelly, is co-owner of the business and runs the office. The couple's two teenaged sons work in the shop after school, and Dave has one full-time, non-family employee. Not only is Dave "a tent maker to the cowboy" but also to the rich and famous, including Tom Cruise, Ted Turner and Patrick Swayze. Now who would think they'd enjoy sleeping on the ground?

— R.G. Robertson

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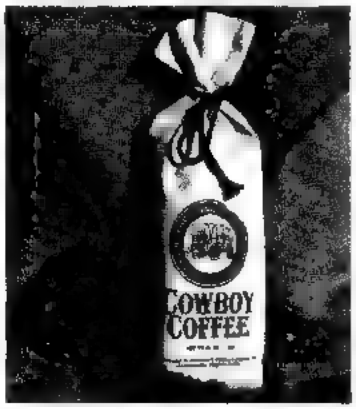

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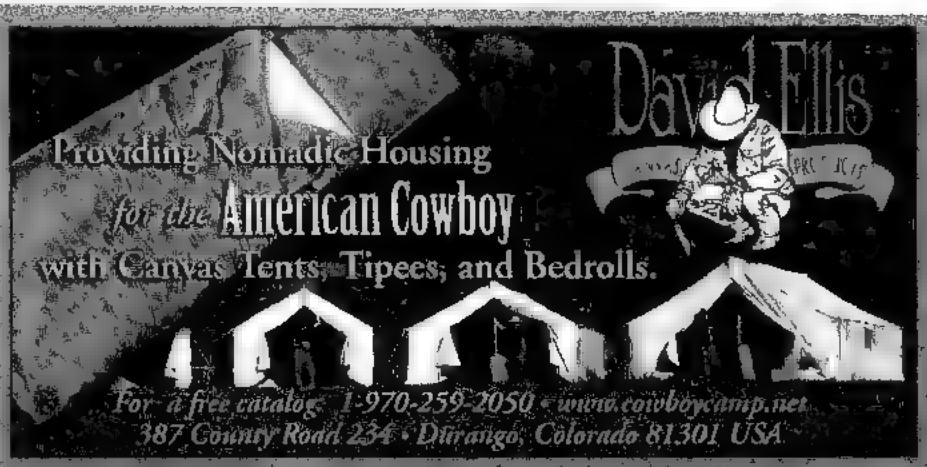
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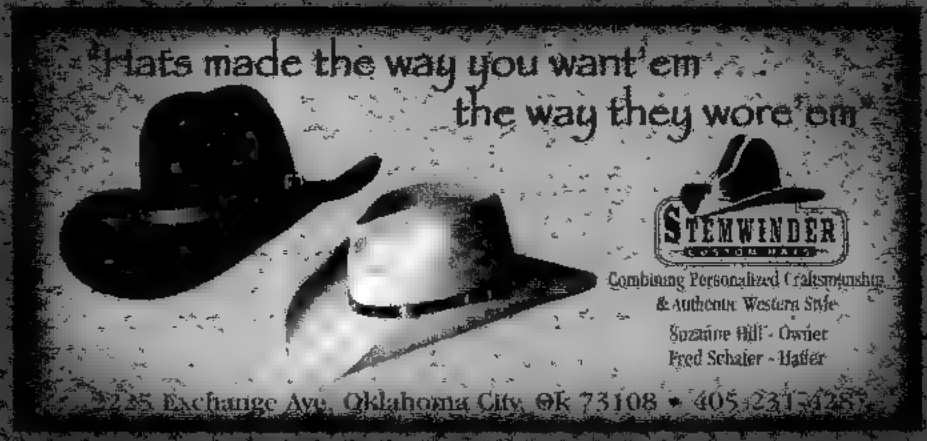
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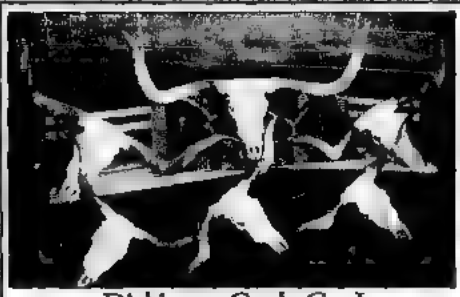

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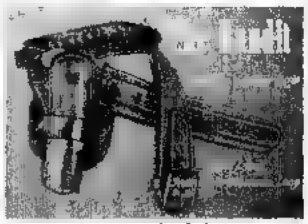

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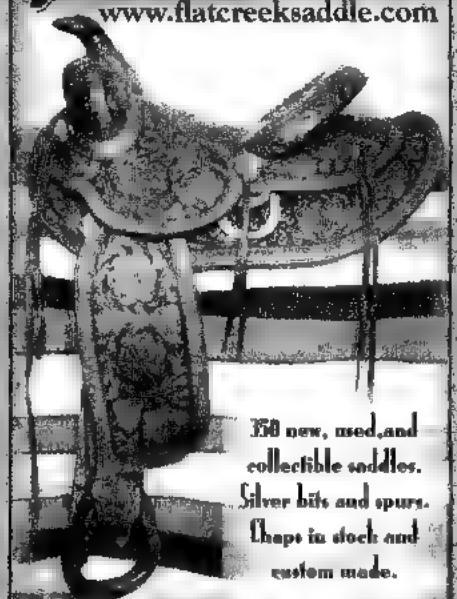

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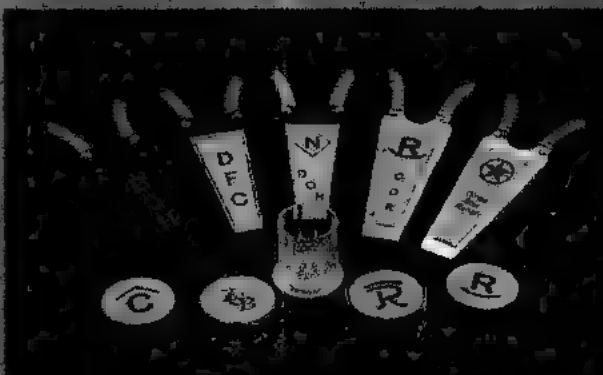

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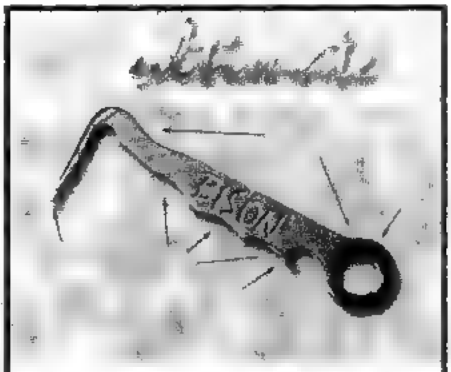

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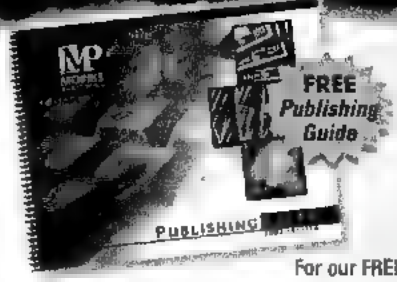

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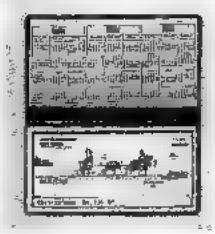

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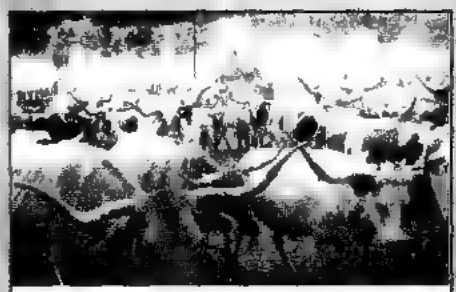

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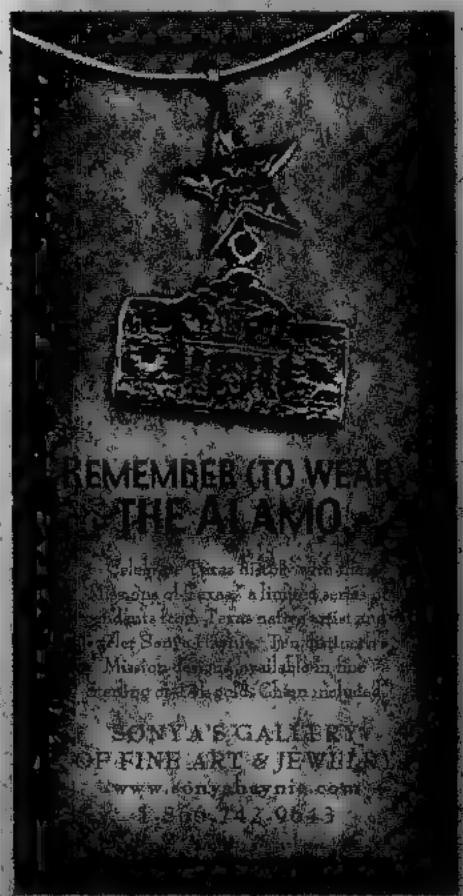

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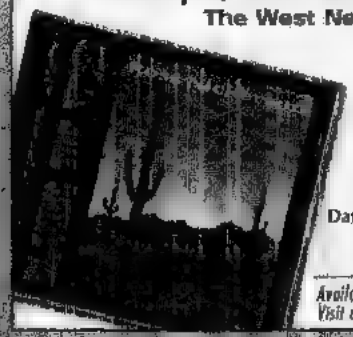

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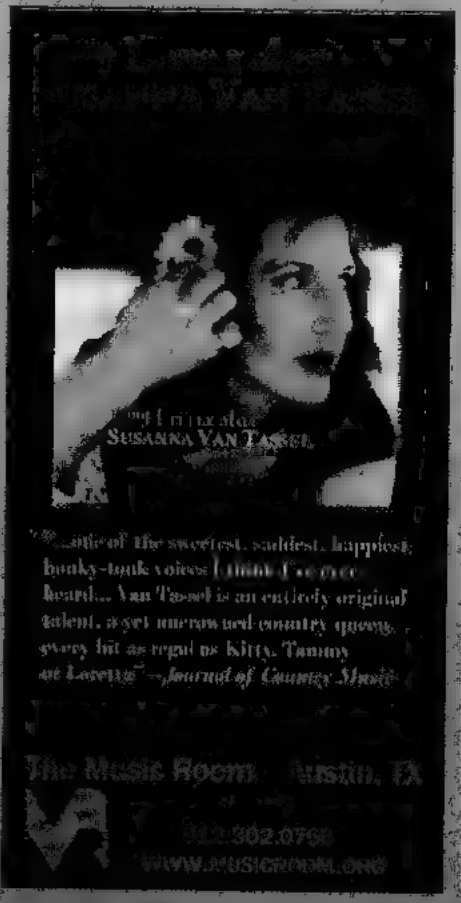

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BY BOB BOZE BELL

The Cowboy Photographer

L.A. Huffman's family tradition

Going to the Roundup *is considered by many to be the best roundup photo ever.*

We at *True West* consider L.A. Huffman (above) to be the premiere photographer of 19th-century cowboys. He is to photography what Charlie Russell is to painting, and the two were good friends.

As a rancher in the 1880s, Huffman was a part of the life he later recorded with his camera. The first of several classic books about his photographs, *Before Barb Wire*, puts it best: Huffman's "ingenuity and patient, persistent effort resulted in the finest collection of range pictures ever made." For your viewing pleasure, here are a few worthy examples:

Bronco's first slicker lesson (one of a series).

Cook Roderick Munroe, of the LU Bar Ranch in Montana, making bread, c. 1904. Munroe, from Dingwall, Scotland, came to Montana in 1880.

Cowboys relax with a brew at Bob Levitt's saloon in Ismay, Montana.

Lee Warren the buster (right), and his hazer, September 1904.

W.R. "Bill" Felton, Jr.

– By BBB –

A Nickel's Worth

"My Dad was a location engineer for the Milwaukee Railroad and he got into Miles City, Montana, on a Sunday in 1906. It was hot and most everything was closed, but he found an open saloon and went in to order a beer. The bartender was wearing a hat like they did in those days and he poured a mug of beer and slid it in front of my Dad, who took out a nickel and placed it on the bar. The bartender picked up the nickel and threw it over his shoulder. My father watched the nickel plunk against the back wall and disappear. 'What's the matter?' my dad asked, and the bartender said, 'Enjoy your beer, but nothing's a nickel in Montana.'"

—Bill Felton, grandson of L.A. Huffman, Montana's most famous photographer.

All in the Family

L.A. Huffman's grandson, W.R. "Bill" Felton, Jr., still carries on the family tradition of living life passionately. Bill visited the *True West* offices in February 2003 (see photo at right and yarn at left), and regaled us with stories of all things Huffman.

Bill's father, W.R. Felton, Sr., began life as an Iowa farmboy, then went to Montana in 1906, where he became a locating engineer for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad. While there he fell in love with Huffman's oldest daughter.

Today, Felton, Jr., 86, still rides his Indian Motorcycles (he owns four) and divides his time between Big Timber, Montana, and Mesa, Arizona.

Q Could you tell me where the graves of Clay Allison, Luke Short, Dallas Stoudenmire and Bud Ledbetter are located?

Gerald D. Schaefer
Aberdeen, Washington

A Clay Allison is buried in the Pecos, Texas, cemetery. There's a nice museum and Western town-setting at the site. He died July 3, 1887, and there's no truth to the story that he was buried in a grave 100 feet deep because,"deep down he was a good man."

Luke Short, (there's absolutely no truth to the tale he was only three feet tall) is buried in Fort Worth, Texas, at Boothill Cemetery. He's buried near T.I. "Longhair Jim" Courtright, a man he gunned down a few years earlier. The notorious "Killin' Jim" Miller is also buried there.

Born in Mississippi, Luke Short moved to Dodge City and in 1870 became a gambler. Short was quite the dandy.
– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES

Dallas Stoudenmire is buried in Alleytown, Texas, but the exact location of his grave is vague.

James F. "Bud" Ledbetter, one of the Southwest's great lawmen, died July 8, 1937, and is buried in Muskogee, Oklahoma

Q When Doc Holliday (as portrayed by Val Kilmer in the movie *Tombstone*) said, "I'm your huckleberry," what did he mean?

Robert Posey
Via the Internet

A Had Kevin Costner said, "I'm your huckleberry," this might never have been the subject of postcards and T-shirts, but since

Tombstone show-stealer Val Kilmer coolly laid that line on us, it has become a part of our Western lexicon.

I said it to some billy bob in a cowboy bar in Cave Creek last night and he knocked me clear into the middle of next week. So much for being cool.

The phrase was a Southern put-down, popular in the post-Civil War era, and has a slight sexual connotation, as in, "You seem rather swish, I'll dance with you." It is also used in a more aggressive stance, as in "I'll oblige you," or "Let's get on with it."

Q How did folks brush their teeth in the Old West?

Larry Smith
Scottsdale, Arizona

A Not many of them did. Although regular dental hygiene is rather recent, the history of brushing teeth goes way back in time.

The toothbrush has been traced to ancient Egypt, some 5,000 years ago. Egyptians used a "chew stick" with a frayed end that was rubbed against the teeth. It's still used in some parts of the world, including rural parts of the U.S.

The first bristle toothbrush is believed to have originated in China around A.D. 1500. The bristles were plucked from hogs and fastened to bone handles. Europeans who brushed, and few did, preferred horse hair bristles.

During frontier times, a community toothbrush, made from the bristle hair of some animal, would be hung in stagecoach stations and other public eating places, where the brush was shared by anybody who felt compelled to clean their teeth.

Folks weren't as aware of spreading germs back then, which also explains the towels that hung along the bar for imbibers to wipe the suds from their mustaches.

Q Do you know where there might be any of Wild Bill Hickok's guns or other belongings?

K. Kirby
Via the Internet

A Hickok expert, Thadd Turner, tells me the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming, owns and displays one of Hickok's 1851 Colt ivory-handled .36 caliber percussion pistols. The other is owned by a private party.

True West's Bob McCubbin owns one of Wild Bill's shaving razors, and the Adams Museum in Deadwood has a couple of his other personal items.

Storied author and Hickok expert Joseph Rosa says there is no provenance to prove Hickok actually owned either of the pistols at Cody. Similarly, he says, the pistol at the Gene Autry Museum is also without provenance.

Wild Bill's razor from th Old West collection of Robert McCubbin.
TRUE WEST ARCHIVES

The deck of cards identified as the original "deadman's hand" at the Adams Museum is not original to the time period and is definitely suspect as are other Hickok artifacts that turn up from time to time. Also, the Hickok family doesn't have any of Wild Bill's personal things.

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Where did the term "grub" come from?

Alex Bender
Via the Internet

Grub has a variety of meanings, including a sluggish larva, food and an unkempt person. Ramon Adams, in his classic *Western Words*, describes grub as a "cruel earmark made by cutting off the entire ear." Rustlers did that to remove an earmark on a stolen cow or calf.

Out West we generally think of grub as something the cook conjures up. A grub-line rider was one who spent his winters visiting ranches at mealtime in hopes of keeping his belly button from inking up with his tailbone during the slow season.

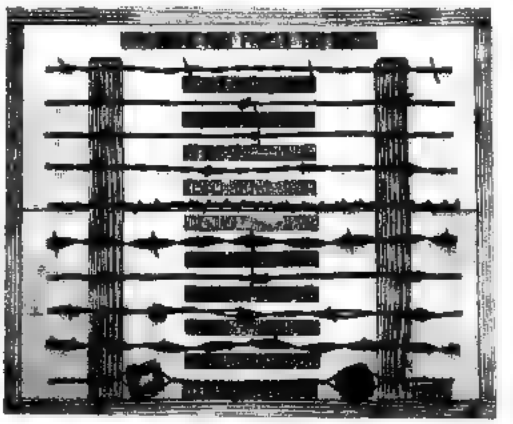
Cowboys dined on chuck wagon "grub" while working on a roundup.

– COURTESY ROBERT MCCUBBIN

Grubstake is a noun or verb describing provisions or providing provisions. Storekeepers frequently provided provisions to "grubstake" prospectors with the understanding that if the sourdough struck pay dirt, he had to share the proceeds with his benefactor. Grub isn't a Western word invention but rather is English slang from the mid-1600s. There is a street in London called Grub Street because it was inhabited by impoverished writers, literary hacks and other unsavory characters.

Marshall Trimble is Arizona's official historian. His books include *Law of the Gun* and *Never Give A Heifer A Bum Steer*.
If you have a question, write: Ask the Marshall, PO Box 8008, Cave Creek, AZ 85327

THE WIRES THAT FENCED THE WEST



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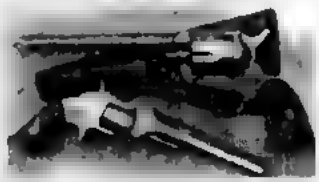

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By Jack Connelly
(Answers below)

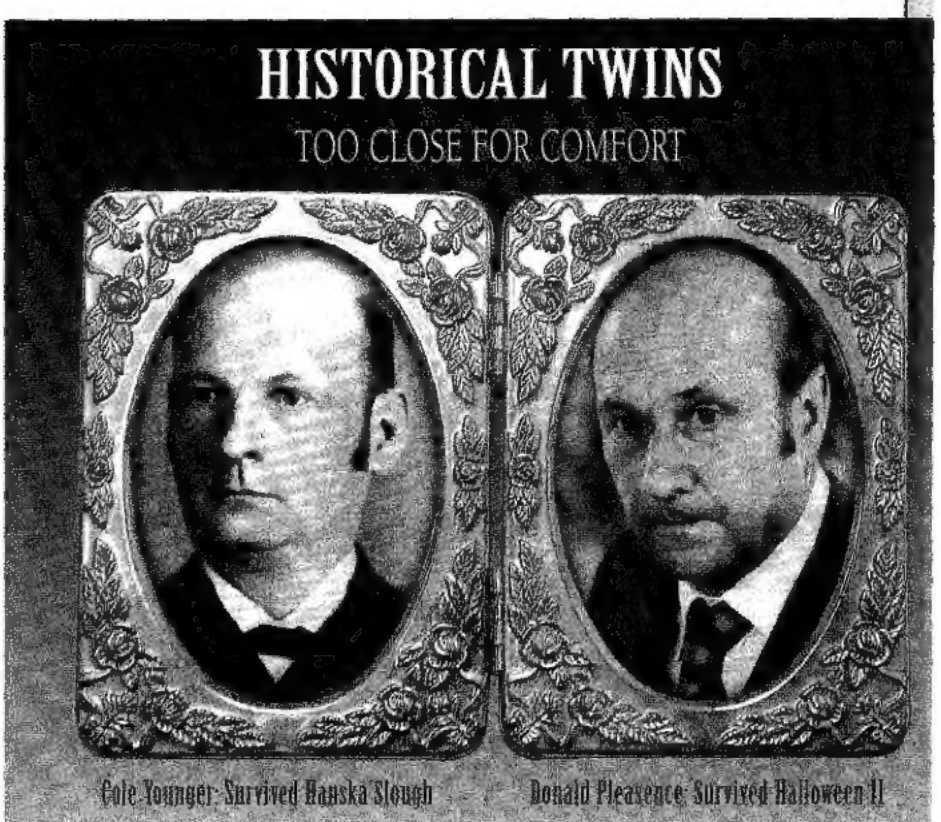
1. What nicknames given to Miami Dolphins' running backs Jim Kiick and Larry Csonka match the monikers given to a pair of Old West desperadoes, for whom a movie was named?

2. What term describes the men who followed Indian leader "Crazy Horse?" It also indicates the players on an Eastern NFL team.

3. Someone sent on reconnaissance; also a person employed by a sports team to spy on the competition or report on promising recruits.

4. What American League baseball team has the same name as the group of men ambushed by "Butch" Cavendish and his Hole in the Wall Gang?

1. Butch Cassidy & The Sundance Kid
2. Redskins (Washington) 3. Scout
4. Texas Rangers



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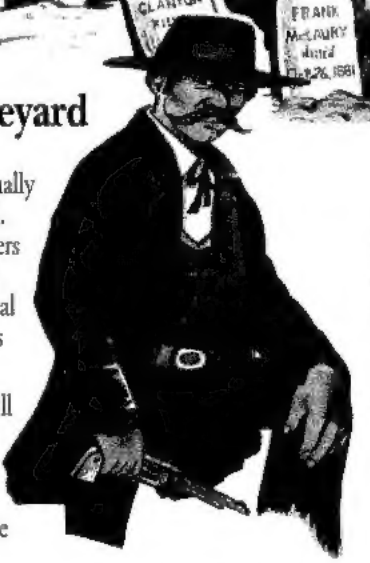

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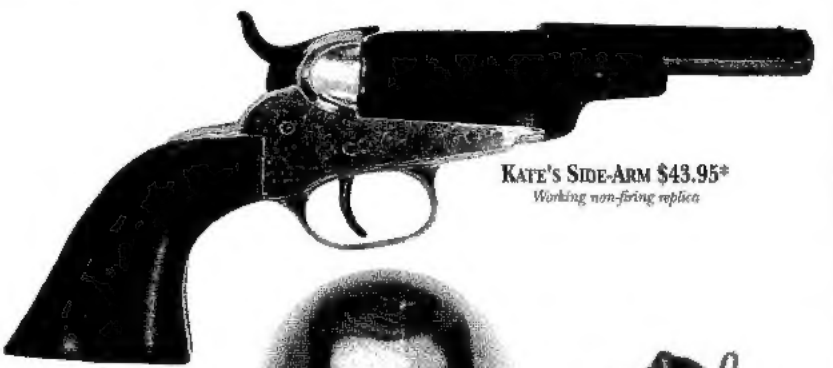

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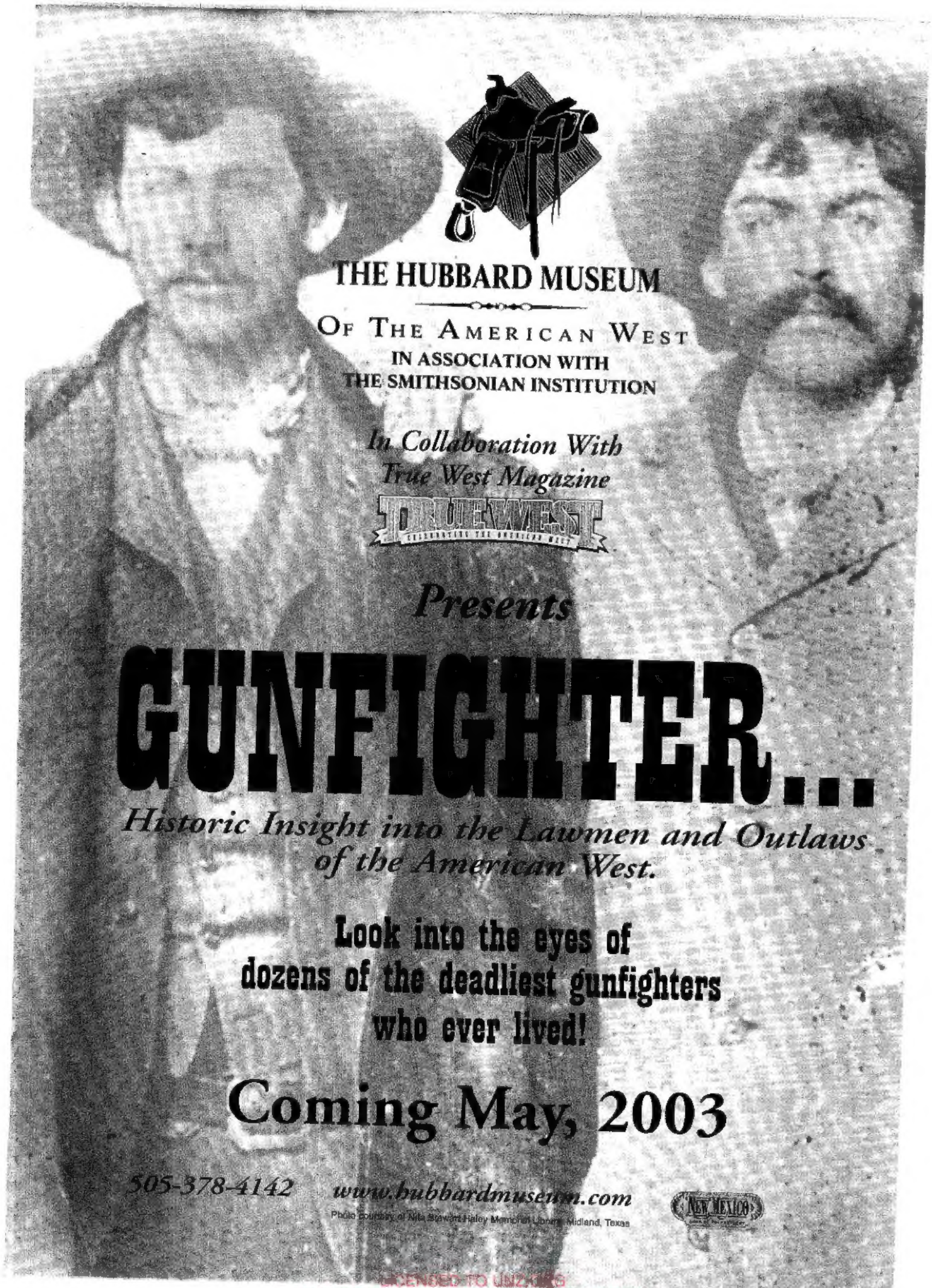

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